

ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Did Hollywood kill the king? Discover the shocking downfall of Elvis



UNCOVER THE TRUTH

BLOODY MARY ON TRIAL

Henry VIII's deadliest daughter or victim of Protestant propaganda?

14
*Notorious
Royal
Mistresses*

**SECRET CULTS
OF ROME**
The bizarre initiations
and rituals exposed



History's daredevils
Meet the men and women who lived without fear



EXPLORERS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

On the trail of discovery with Lewis and Clark



LAST KING OF FRANCE

What if Louis XVI had escaped the guillotine?



FIDEL CASTRO

The life of the Cuban revolutionary leader

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Discover the downfall of a rock and roll icon on page 60

Welcome

Mary I only reigned for five years, but her legacy casts a long shadow over history. Her tale has become tangled in folklore (chant 'Bloody Mary' three times in the mirror and a malevolent apparition is said to appear), and then, of course, there's the savoury cocktail bearing the same unsavoury nickname. Centuries have passed, but the perception of her as the most murderous monarch has stuck around like a poltergeist in the pipes. It's about time, then, that we review what really happened, and the truth is rather tragic.

Mentally tortured by her father, Mary was forbidden from seeing her mother after the divorce unless they acknowledged Anne Boleyn as the queen. Both refused.

Mary's new illegitimate status also made her subservient to her infant half-sister and, perhaps worst of all, she was coerced into renouncing her Catholic faith. But her grandparents, Ferdinand and Isabella - the so-called 'Catholic Monarchs' - had left their mark, and when Mary came to power, she well and truly left hers.



Jodie

Jodie Tyley
Editor

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Masks through history

From elaborate Venetian carnival masks to the sinister-looking beak of the plague doctor, we examine how masks and their uses have evolved over time.

48



14 royal mistresses

Meet the beauties, harlots and seductresses who vied for power from the royal bedchamber, and discover their eye-opening stories and dastardly fates.

80



Roman mystery cults

Delve into the underworld of Ancient Rome, where mystery cults worshipped the gods with ritual re-enactments and copious amounts of wine.

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HISTORY IN PICTURES

THE ATOMIC AGE

Hundreds gathered to watch as the US detonated an atomic bomb at Bikini Atoll. It was part of Operation Crossroads, which saw two tests carried out: one underwater (Baker), and another in the atmosphere (Able). After the bombings of Japan, the US sought to measure the effects of nuclear weapons on military targets. A study warned that the water would become a "witch's brew" of radioactivity.

1946







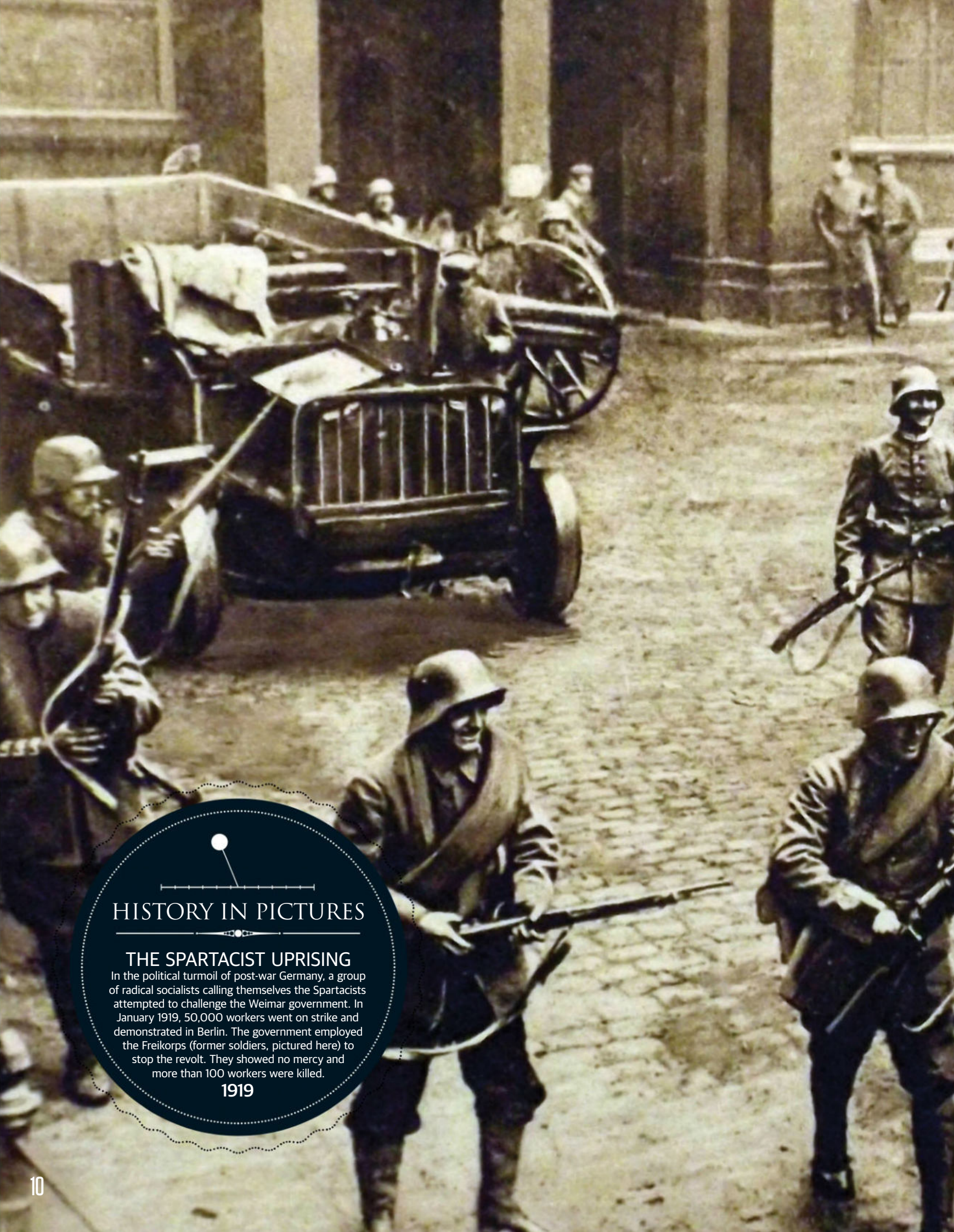
HISTORY IN COLOUR

BIRTH OF THE BIG APPLE

The co-founder of Apple, Steve Jobs, stands in a room full of the original Macintosh computers. The machine was released on 24 January 1984, and represented a revolution within the tech industry with its nine-inch screen, 128k of memory and \$2,500 price tag. Ridley Scott directed the epic Super Bowl commercial, inspired by George Orwell's dystopian novel. 2017 marks ten years since Jobs debuted the iPhone.

1984





HISTORY IN PICTURES

THE SPARTACIST UPRISING

In the political turmoil of post-war Germany, a group of radical socialists calling themselves the Spartacists attempted to challenge the Weimar government. In January 1919, 50,000 workers went on strike and demonstrated in Berlin. The government employed the Freikorps (former soldiers, pictured here) to stop the revolt. They showed no mercy and more than 100 workers were killed.

1919







HISTORY IN COLOUR

CROWNING GLORY

65 years ago, on 6 February 1952, King George VI died and his daughter, Elizabeth, ascended the throne. Planning for her coronation soon began and the date was set for 2 June 1953. On that day, the doors of Westminster Abbey opened at 6am for reporters and cameramen to take their positions. It was the first coronation to be televised, and at 12.34pm, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in the Coronation Chair.

1953

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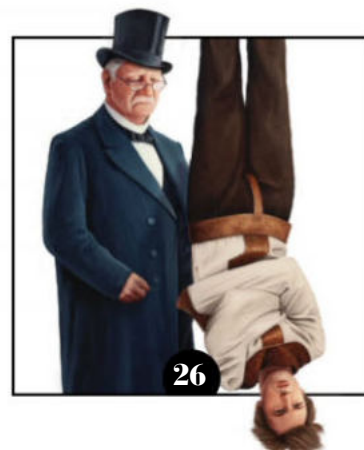
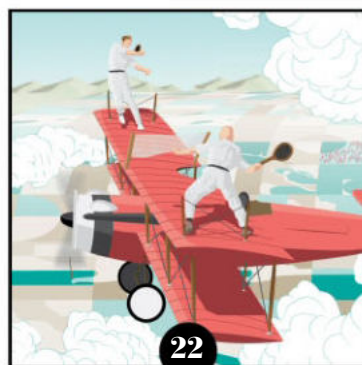
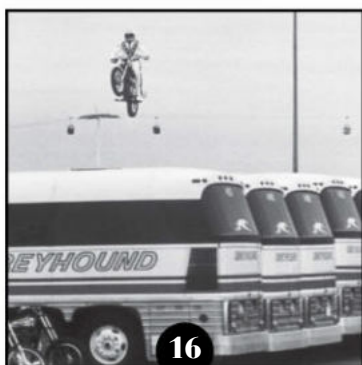
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ALL ABOUT

DAREDEVILS

Brace yourself for the most insane stunts of all time, and get to know the men and women who risked life and limb for entertainment



Daredevils across history

Death-defying feats, amazing endurance and crazy stunts have wowed audiences for millennia

CHINESE ACROBATS

The acrobats of the Han Dynasty perform amazing stunts to music and incorporate everyday objects like ladders into their acts. Troops travel and entertain in the streets.



206 BCE

THE EMPEROR GLADIATOR

Many gladiators are slaves forced to fight, but foolhardy Emperor Commodus believes he is the incarnation of Hercules and puts himself into the gladiatorial amphitheatre, battling both men and beasts.



180

LAND DIVING

Men of the Bunlap tribe of Pentecost Island start the coming-of-age ritual of land diving. Vines are tied to their ankles and they jump from various levels of a rickety tall tower, built from wood and vines.



C.500

BARNSTORMING HEYDAY

War-veteran pilots take to the skies to perform incredible mid-air stunts like jumping from plane-to-plane without tethers, touring the USA in aerial circuses and giving biplane joyrides.



1920S



THE GREAT HOUDINI

Legendary illusionist Harry Houdini premieres his Chinese water torture stunt in Berlin, Germany. Houdini's ankles are locked in stocks and he is lowered, upside down, into a tank of water.

1912



OVER THE NIAGARA FALLS

In an attempt to garner fame and fortune, 63-year-old schoolteacher Annie Edson Taylor becomes the first person to survive a trip over Niagara Falls contained in a wooden barrel.

1901

DESCENT TO THE DEPTHS

Bathyscaphe 'Trieste' descends

10,911 METRES

to the deepest place in the ocean, the Challenger Deep

The bathyscaphe has

12 GAS TANKS to balance buoyancy

Jacques Piccard and Donald Walsh are on board, and the descent takes

4 HOURS 45 MINUTES

The men stayed on the bottom at Challenger Deep, which is deeper than Mount Everest is tall, for 20 minutes.

KNIEVEL'S BIG JUMP

The notorious daredevil Evel Knievel makes his most impressive motorcycle jump yet, clearing 40.5 metres over 14 Greyhound buses in front of a crowd at Kings Island theme park in Ohio, USA.



1975

SUSPENSION BRIDGE BUNGEE

Members of the Oxford University Dangerous Sports Club perform the world's first bungee jump off the Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol, wearing top hats and tails. The jumpers are arrested but released.



1979

1960

THE DIVING BELL

Guglielmo de Lorena and Francesco de Marchi use the first diving bell to explore

2 ROMAN BARGES submerged in Lake Nemi

They make several dives, each lasting

UP TO 2 HOURS

The two explorers are able to descend to between

5 AND 12 METRES

1535

BULL RUNNING

The Spanish town of Pamplona moves the San Fermin fiesta to July. The famous Bull Run takes place, where townspeople run with the raging bulls through the streets to the bullring.



Garnerin's most spectacular jump was from 2,400 metres in 1802.

FIRST PARACHUTE JUMP



On 22 October, Frenchman André-Jacques Garnerin jumps from a hydrogen balloon at 975 metres using a prototype parachute. Two years later, his wife becomes the first female parachutist.

1591

1797

THE FIRST HUMAN CANNONBALL

The first person to be shot from a cannon is

JUST 14 YEARS OLD

'Zazel' (real name Rosa Marie Richter)

FLIES 30 METRES

in front of a crowd at the Royal Aquarium

Before her untimely death, Zazel reportedly

EARNS £200 A WEEK

performing to crowds of 20,000 in England and the USA

Frenchman Henri Martin was the first person to train a big cat after entering a tiger's cage in 1819.

LION-TAMING EXTRAORDINAIRE

American Isaac Van Amburgh is the first man to place his head in a lion's mouth, astounding audiences by acting *Bible* scenes alongside big cats.



PIONEERING AERONAUT

Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi entertains thousands of Brits with 'majestic grandeur' in his elaborate balloon. His most intrepid stunt is a journey over 58 kilometres of water in Scotland.



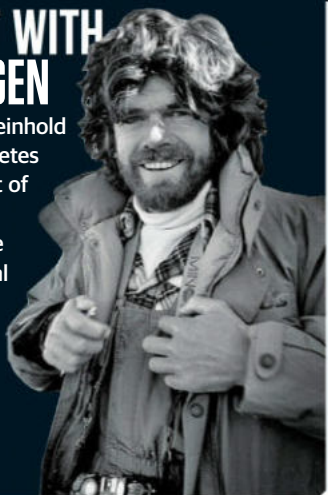
1877

1828

1785

EVEREST WITH NO OXYGEN

Mountaineer Reinhold Messner completes his solo summit of Mount Everest without the use of supplemental oxygen, a feat that was previously deemed to be scientifically impossible.



THE 'WINGSUIT'



Frenchman Patrick De Gayardon pushes the boundaries of BASE jumping by perfecting 'the wingsuit': fabric between the legs and arms increases surface area and performs like a parachute.

SKYDIVE FROM SPACE

In October 2012, Austrian Felix Baumgartner jumps from a balloon at

39,045 METRES: the edge of space

He was in free fall for

4 MINUTES AND 20 SECONDS

He opened his parachute at

2,516 METRES

Baumgartner became the first human to break the sound barrier without mechanical propulsion.

1980

1994

2012

Day in the life

CIRCUS LION TAMER

TRAINING BIG CATS TO DO INCREDIBLE STUNTS, WORLDWIDE, 1920s-50s

When the circus rolled into town, the main attraction typically wasn't the juggling clown or the acrobatic tightrope walker. Instead, the crowds flocked to the tent to see the exotic big cats, as well as the brave trainers who handled them. There's no doubt that the job of a lion tamer was fraught with danger, but many enjoyed long careers in the ring. It was around the 1920s that techniques for training big cats began to change, with positive reinforcement starting to be favoured over scare and punishment tactics. The animals used in circus acts were usually born in captivity and worked with from a young age, enabling their trainers to slowly gain their trust in order to teach them the impressive tricks that wowed the crowds.

TRAINING TECHNIQUES

Circuses often travelled around the country, only staying in one place for a few days at a time. After arriving at the circus tent, or while the tent was being set up, the lion tamer would practise their act with the big cats. Prior to the 1920s, beating the animals into submission was often the preferred training method, but it was soon discovered that rewarding them with food was a much more effective, and more humane, way to train them.

FEEDING TIME

It was very important that the big cats were well fed and rested before a performance, otherwise they were more likely to disobey orders and become violent when they were hungry and agitated. American tiger trainer Mabel Stark learned this the hard way when she ran out of time to feed her felines before the show and was later mauled in the ring.

BUILD THE CAGE

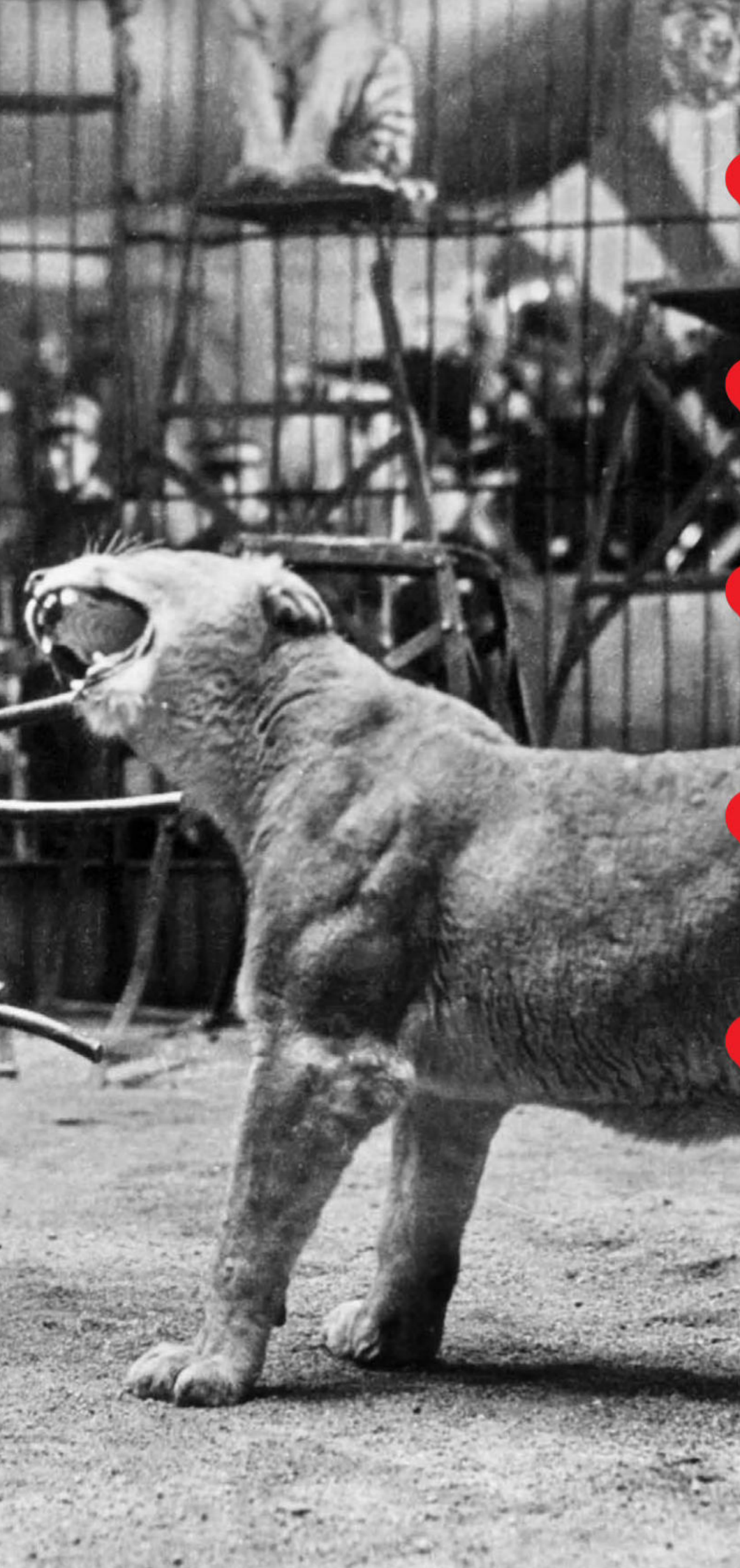
While the lion tamers were getting changed into their dazzling costumes, netting or a metal cage was erected around the ring to protect the audience from the big cats, or at least help them to feel at ease in the presence of the animals. After the performance, it would then have to be taken down before the next act, so as to not obstruct the crowd's view.



Irina Bugrimova feeds her lions with her bare hands while the animal is caged between performances



Clyde Beatty pioneered the chair technique for training lions



GATHER THE PROPS

Props such as sticks, whips and pistols – usually loaded with blanks – were often just for show, or for use as a last resort if things went wrong. However, American cat trainer Clyde Beatty's act also required a chair. The lions became confused by its four legs, unsure which one to focus on, and so were successfully distracted from lashing out.

THE MAIN EVENT

Some lion tamers tried to cram as many cats into their act as possible, with as many as 12 lions and tigers in the ring at once, sometimes forming an animal pyramid. Others focused on spectacular stunts with individual creatures, getting them to walk on tightropes, jump through hoops of fire and even ride a horse.

SHOCKING STUNTS

While many lion tamers kept a safe distance between themselves and their animals, others got up-close and personal in an effort to really wow the crowds. Russian performer Irina Bugrimova often fed the lions from her own mouth, reclined on their backs and rode with them on a trapeze or motorcycle. Mabel Stark's act also saw her appear to brawl with a beast in the ring.

DISASTER STRIKES

Although most performances ended without incident, occasionally the lions would rebel against their trainer. This usually resulted in a few minor scratches and bite marks, but after one particularly vicious attack, Mabel Stark was left with her boots full of blood and wounds that required 378 stitches. Nevertheless, she returned to the ring just a few weeks later.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Even when the animals lashed out, the trainers did their best to keep calm and not panic the audience for fear that their act would be cancelled or their beloved animals would be killed. Stark famously finished one performance with her arm hanging limp from a tiger bite, but always insisted an attack was the fault of the trainer, never the cat.



On command, this lion leaps between two ladders to the wonder and amazement of the crowd

5 amazing facts about...

MEDIEVAL JOUSTING

EUROPE, 11TH-17TH CENTURIES

01 The sport began as military training

Heavy cavalry were fast becoming the dominant force on the Medieval battlefield, mainly in the form of knights. Jousting became a practical way for the knights to train in horsemanship and combat between battles, and soon became a form of popular entertainment too.

02 Preparations were started months in advance

Tournaments were formal events that required careful planning. In the months prior, nobles would obtain a royal permit, challenge landowners, publish the rules of the clash and select their most skilled knight to participate. Heralds would then promote the event using poems and songs.

03 Safety measures were gradually introduced

Lances originally had pointed tips, and knights would charge at each other head-on, resulting in dangerous collisions. In 1292, a new law stated weapons must be blunted; in the 14th century, a barrier was introduced, separating the opponents.

04 Jousting killed King Henry II of France...

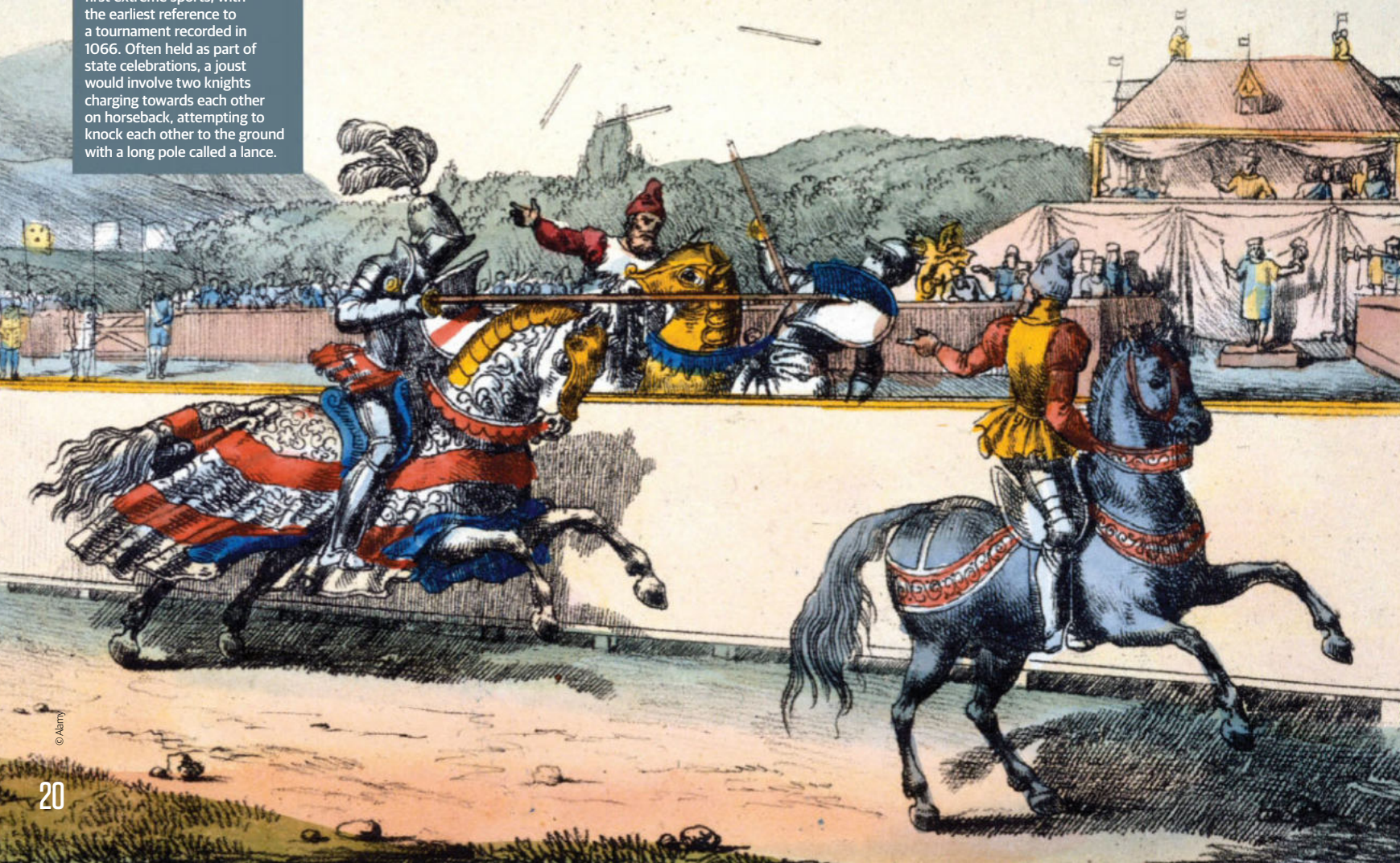
In 1559, Henry II participated in a jousting tournament to celebrate the marriage of his daughter. During the fight, a sliver of his opponent's lance broke off and struck him in the eye, penetrating his brain. Despite the best efforts of the royal surgeon, Henry died an agonising death from his injury.

05 ...and injured King Henry VIII of England

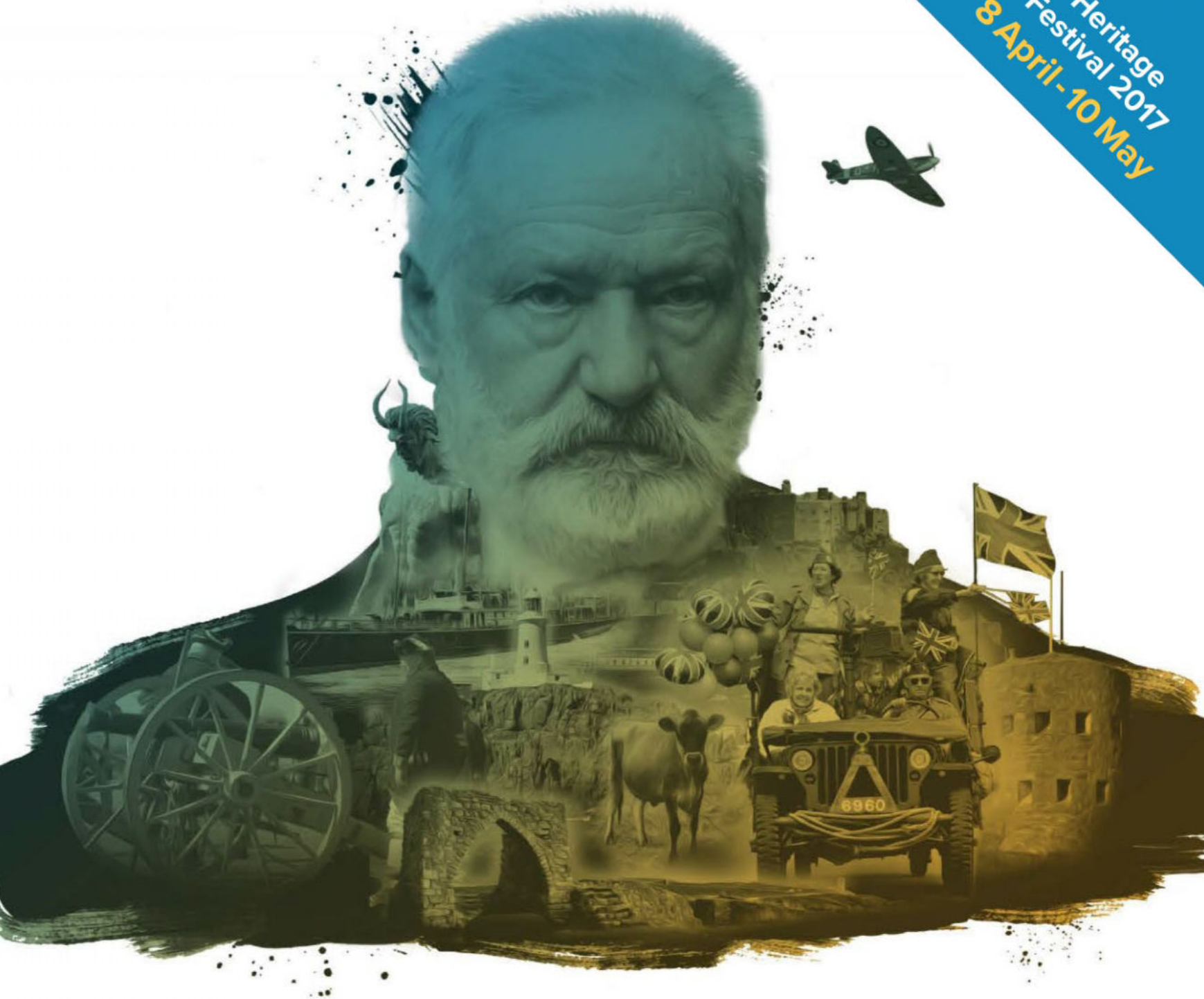
While competing in a jousting tournament in 1536, Henry VIII was thrown from his horse, which then landed on top of him. The king suffered a serious leg injury that plagued him for the rest of his life, and some say that he may also have suffered a head trauma that affected his personality.

AT A GLANCE

Jousting was one of history's first extreme sports, with the earliest reference to a tournament recorded in 1066. Often held as part of state celebrations, a joust would involve two knights charging towards each other on horseback, attempting to knock each other to the ground with a long pole called a lance.



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• HERITAGE FESTIVAL •

How to BECOME A BARNSTORMER

JUMP INTO THE COCKPIT AND JOIN THE FAMOUS AERIAL CIRCUS USA, 1918-36

In a world where automobiles were still an exciting luxury, the thrill of flying was hard to forget for many World War I military-trained pilots. The surplus of planes that the USA had after the war were selling for a knock-down price, so many pilots purchased them to take to the skies and make a living entertaining crowds. No licence was needed and there were no airspace regulations, which allowed the rapid set up of aerial circuses. Towns would grind to a halt when the barnstormers rumbled across the skies as people relished the chance to see an aeroplane for the first time, not to mention go for a ride in one.

Stunt performers

The stunt men and women risked their lives, dancing, playing and doing acrobatics on the wings of the plane.

Rickety plane

Maintained on a very meagre budget, the old World War I biplanes were swift, light and agile in the air.

Village crowds

The town came to a standstill when the barnstormers arrived - everyone rushed to see the pilots put on a fantastic show.

Pilot

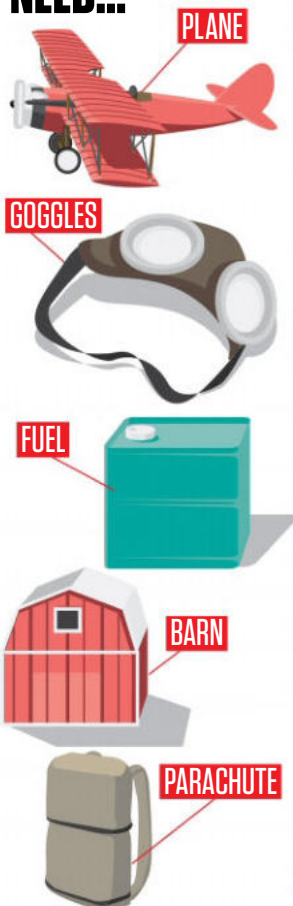
The person in the cockpit needed nerves of steel, and be able to deftly wield their aircraft into breathtaking and death-defying mid-air manoeuvres.

Makeshift airfield

Any large field would do, even better if it had a large barn to fly the plane through, soaring just inches off the ground.

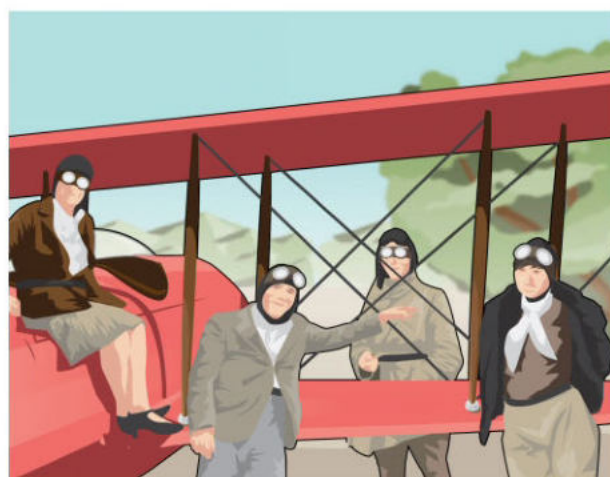


WHAT YOU'LL NEED...



01 Buy your plane

If you have returned from the war but are out of work, then perhaps a career in barnstorming is for you. There are plenty of thrills and spills to be had for an adventurous soul. The first thing you'll need to do is purchase your plane. There is a surplus of Curtiss JN-4 'Jenny' biplanes out there, which can be yours for about \$200.



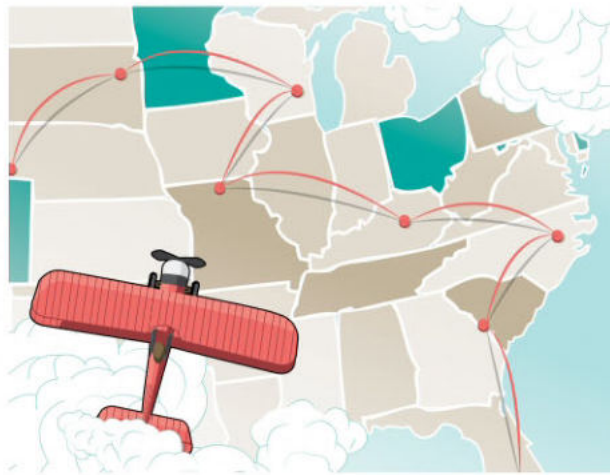
02 Assemble your troop

A like-minded group of individuals is essential for your aerial act to work. Put the word out among your flying connections and make sure you pick the most daring, imaginative and skilled pilots for the job. Stunts and tricks are essential to entertain townspeople and keep the dollars rolling in, so a few specialist stunt performers are great assets to have.

How not to... perform aerial stunts

Aerial acrobatics was a risky business, especially in an era when there were no regulations and safety wasn't paramount. For every stunt that went well, there were many that ended in tragedy. In fact, the longevity of the pilots and stunt people was so minimal that promoters stopped putting the star's real names on promotional posters, giving them stage names like 'Diavolo' to avoid being left with reams of wasted material should the unlucky performer expire on the job.

There are countless tales of stunts going wrong, from performers falling off, getting tangled up, missing the ladders that they were jumping from to full-on plane crashes into trees, the ground and each other. Barnstorming came to an end as principles were introduced throughout the late 1920s and 1930s that required better safety specifications for the planes and also regulated airspace. The barnstormers paved the way for modern American aviation, albeit at a major cost.



03 Plan your stunts

The more daring, terrifying and astounding the better. Think like the greats such as Eddie Angel with his 'dive of death' (jumping from a plane in the dark with a torch in each hand), or Clyde 'upside-down' Pangborn, who flies inverted and also specialises in swapping planes mid-air. Find your stunt and perfect it - every flying circus needs a signature act.

04 Start a tour

It's time to hit the skies. A great many small towns and villages across the USA will have never even seen a plane before, so simply pick a place and make your way there. During your stay, you will most likely find you are able to employ local kids to carry fuel for you in exchange for a plane ride at the end of the day.



05 Buzz the town

The best way to attract a great crowd is to buzz the town. The rumble of engines as your Jenny approaches will draw the people out; it's then up to you to loop and roll, enticing everyone to follow you. Find a large field to land, and hope the farmer is accommodating (try offering him a discounted ride for his hospitality).

06 Put on a show!

With a crowd assembled, it's time to begin. Use the field as your makeshift airstrip, and, if there's a barn, listen to the crowd go wild as you fly through it at super low altitude. Have one of your pilots dedicated to taking people into the air, and make sure you charge extra for those once-in-a-lifetime experiences of rolls and loop-the-loops.

4 FAMOUS... FLYING CIRCUSES



THE FIVE BLACKBIRDS

1931-32, LA, USA

Recruited by WWI pilot veteran William J Powell, the Blackbirds were the USA's first all-black aerobatic team. 40,000 people watched their first show.



THE 13 BLACK CATS

1924-29, HOLLYWOOD, USA

These fearless pilots, along with stuntwoman Gladys Ingle, wing walked with no safety gear, and Gladys would leap between planes.



GATES FLYING CIRCUS

1922-29, USA-WIDE

Ivan Gates wasn't a pilot originally, but used to promote the hugely famous shows before he learned how to fly.



MABEL CODY'S FLYING CIRCUS

1921-24, FLORIDA, USA

Mabel Cody leapt from a speeding car to a flying plane, and survived the fall when the ladder rung broke.



CIRCUS MAXIMUS

CHARIOT RACING, 6TH CENTURY BCE – 6TH CENTURY

The Circus Maximus was the Ancient Roman equivalent of a modern-day concert hall. This huge sports venue was host to a plethora of exciting, dangerous and exhilarating activities enjoyed by the entire city. The circus was originally built in the 6th century BCE as a chariot racetrack, located in the valley between the Palatine and Aventine hills. Its main purpose was to host the Roman Games, the oldest and most famous games in the city. Held every September, the event featured 15 days of perilous, heart-pounding chariot races.

Chariot racing was no casual pastime; there was huge monetary and personal reward for those brave riders who emerged from the track victorious. Similar to modern footballers, chariot racers were beloved by fans and celebrated for their valiant victories. However, winning was no easy task, and all the men who competed risked life and limb for fame and fortune. The different chariot teams were colour coded green, red, blue and white, and rivalry between the supporters of different

teams was heated and occasionally violent. The chariots used were akin to war chariots, and the riders were held in place at their feet. The sharp turns were the most dangerous part of the heated race, where chariots could be knocked, overturned and crushed. Although causing opponents to crash was strictly illegal, collisions were still very common.

The Circus Maximus was not only used for chariot racing, it was also host to a variety of other thrilling events such as wild animal hunts, gladiator fights and public executions. It also was the venue for less exciting business such as religious ceremonies, public feasts and plays. The site continued to be used

for chariot racing until the 6th century, when it was left to decay, many of its materials being used for building works. Since the mid-19th century, excavations have uncovered more of the original seating and today it is used as a large park area, hosting concerts and festivals.

Seating

When the Circus Maximus was first built, the seating was made out of wood and reserved for the elite of society. Seats for commoners were later added, but wooden stands would have frequently rotted, and stone seating later replaced it. Caesar extended the seating to go around almost the entire track. The seating rose three storeys high, with only the highest seats made from wood.

The starting signal

The race began from 12 gates known as carceres, six from either side of the entrance. The gates were built along a slight curve so the distance travelled by the chariots was equal for all. Above the gates the presiding magistrate sat and signalled the start of the race by dropping a white flag, at which time the gates opened and the race began.

Imperial Box

High in the palace area of the Palatine Hill was the Imperial Box. This is where the emperor and royal family would watch the events unfold. The emperor wasn't the only one with his own box; there were permanent viewing stands and private boxes for many powerful and wealthy citizens such as politicians and senators.



The audience

The games were one of the most important events in the Roman calendar. Members of every echelon of society gathered, from peasants to the emperor himself, in the arena, which could seat an estimated 150,000. Love poets wrote that race days were the ideal place to find a lady, while Christian preachers warned that the circus was full of sin, and just as corrupt as a brothel.

Starting procession

Before the race began there was a procession through the circus. Images of the gods were carried around the track in a grand display - some were in carriages, in frames, and others on men's shoulders. They were followed by attendants on foot and horseback and behind them were dancers, musicians and combatants. This procession was followed by sacred rites delivered by priests.

Spina

The Spina was a brick wall barrier that ran straight down the middle of almost the entire length of the Circus Maximus. This wall was approximately 3.5 metres wide and 1.2 metres high. Emperor Augustus erected an obelisk in the middle, which reached 40 metres high and had been brought from Egypt. The chariots would turn around the ends of the Spina, which were protected by three ornamented cones.

Eggs and dolphins

There were two columns near the end of the Spina with marble crossbars. Mounted on these crossbars were large sculpted eggs, one of which was removed every time the chariots completed a circuit to indicate how many laps were remaining. Eggs were chosen as they were believed to be the symbol of the divine patrons of Rome, Castor and Pollux. In 33 BCE, large bronze dolphins were also added for greater visibility of the current race progress.

The track

The circus itself was a long oblong, which measured 621 metres by 118 metres wide. The entire circumference of the stadium was a mile (1.6 kilometres) around. A canal, three metres wide by three metres deep, was later cut between the track and the seating, which protected the spectators and helped drain the track.

Competitors

The drivers of the carriages were of low social status, often slaves or freedmen. Slaves especially had something to gain from winning races, as if they won enough, they could buy their freedom. Often the driver did not own the chariot and horses he raced with, instead using those belonging to wealthier citizens. This meant that, as women were able to own chariots, they could be the winners of a race they were prohibited from taking part in through ownership.

Outside

The festivities weren't confined to inside the arena. Outside the Circus Maximus there were many shops open to the spectators. Every shop had a separate entrance and exit to accommodate the huge number of people visiting them without risk of overcrowding. Dionysius wrote that this area of shops was inhabited by cooks, astrologers and prostitutes, and was the site of the fire of 64 CE.

THE Anatomy of

AN ESCAPOLOGIST

USA AND EUROPE, EARLY-20TH CENTURY

ACCOMPLICE

THE SNEAKY ASSISTANT

If the escapologist thought they might need a little extra help with their escape, an accomplice would secretly 'palm' them a cutting tool as they shook their hand before the jacket was secured. The tool could then be concealed and used to discreetly sever the straps and buckles.

SLACK

ADDED WIGGLE ROOM

As the jacket was being fastened, the escapologist would pinch and pull the material and take a deep breath to expand their chest. This helped to create more room inside once they had exhaled. They then simply used their strength, stamina and a few clever manoeuvres to wriggle free.

HIDDEN HELP

THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE

Any cutting tools or keys needed to help with the escape could be hidden in several ingenious places without the audience's knowledge. For example, they might be placed inside a false finger, concealed in the escapologist's hair, or stuck inside a hollowed-out compartment in their shoe.

CRANE

HANGING AROUND

Performing the escape while hanging upside down meant the escapologist got a little help from gravity, as the arms could be pulled over the head more easily. It also looked more daring, and when performed above the city streets, drew enormous crowds and media attention to help promote the act.

BUCKLES AND STRAPS

ALL TIED UP

The straightjacket, made from heavy canvas and tough leather, had straps that looped around the escapologist's neck and chest and were fastened behind their back.

Once the arms had been pulled over the head, the buckles could be undone with the hands and teeth.

STRAIGHTJACKET

RESTRICTIVE CLOTHING

When escaping from a straightjacket supplied by someone else, a little more time, and a concealed cutting tool, were usually required. However if the jacket was the escapologist's own, it often had longer sleeves and simpler straps to enable a quicker and easier escape.

DISLOCATED SHOULDER

A WORKPLACE INJURY

When a straightjacket was proving particularly difficult to escape from, escapologists would sometimes dislocate one or both shoulders to create more slack. This was typically only used as a last resort, but did make it easier to break free.



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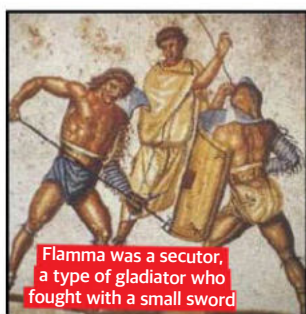


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Hall of Fame

FEARLESS THRILL-SEEKERS

From intrepid tightrope walkers to pioneering skydivers, meet the adrenaline junkies behind some of history's most daring spectacles



FLAMMA

SYRIAN UNKNOWN

Most Roman gladiators were slaves, forced to fight for entertainment and only freed when awarded the rudis – a small wooden

sword. Flamma was no exception, but although he was awarded the rudis four times, he chose to continue fighting. Of his 34 bouts, he won 21, lost four and drew nine, making him one of the most successful gladiators in history. After a 13-year career, he died in battle at the age of 30.



Spelterini performed her stunts as part of the US's first centennial celebrations

MARIA SPELTERINI

ITALIAN 1853-1912

The first and only woman to tightrope walk across the Niagara Falls was 23-year-old Maria Spelterini. She completed her first walk on 8 July 1876, crossing a six-centimetre-thick wire while watched by onlookers from a suspension bridge. She went on to cross the falls four more times that month, once while wearing peach baskets on her feet, another while blindfolded and another with her ankles and wrists in shackles.

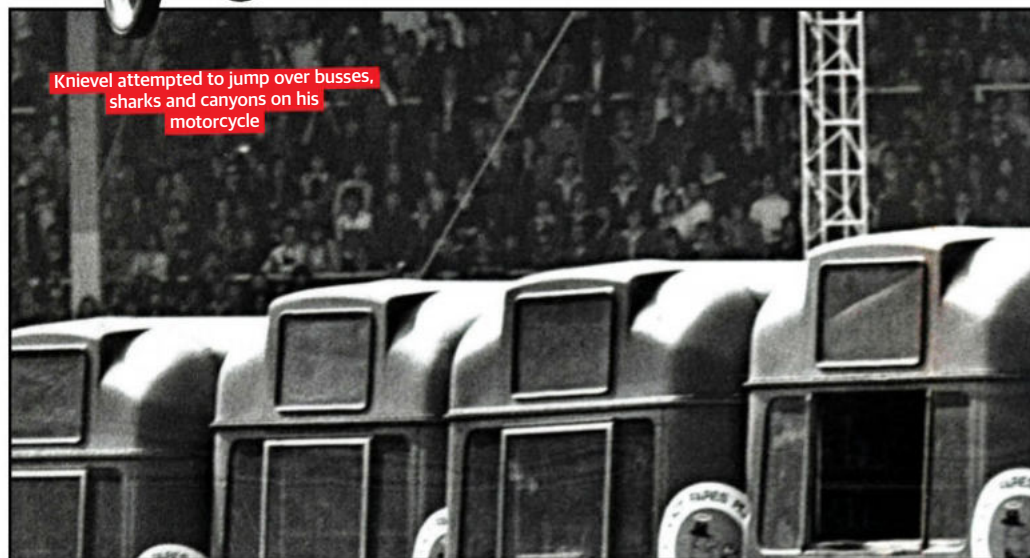


EVEL KNieVEL

AMERICAN 1938-2007

A possible month in a coma with a fractured skull, broken pelvis, broken hips and broken ribs was just the beginning for Evel Knievel, after his motorcycle came crashing down from a jump over the Caesars Palace fountain in Las Vegas. That first major stunt performed in 1967 horrified and amazed onlookers, propelling Robert Knievel from a petty thief to the celebrity daredevil in red, white and blue. He went on to perform more than 75 jumps, shattering even more bones, before finally hanging up his jumpsuit and helmet in 1977.

Evel Knievel holds the Guinness World Record for the most bones broken in a lifetime. He suffered a total of 433 bone fractures



Knievel attempted to jump over busses, sharks and canyons on his motorcycle

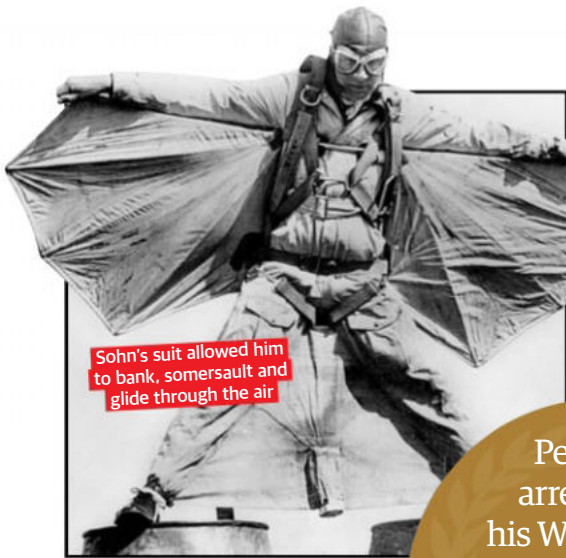


Garnerin's highest jump was from almost 2,500 metres

ANDRÉ-JACQUES GARNERIN

FRENCH 1769-1823

While dreaming up ways to escape prison during the French Revolutionary Wars, Garnerin came up with the idea of using air resistance to slow a fall. After his release, he put his theory into practice, building the first parachute out of white canvas attached to a basket. He tested his new invention by leaping from a hydrogen-filled balloon 1,000 metres in the air in 1797. He landed unhurt and went on to complete more than 200 jumps.



Sohn's suit allowed him to bank, somersault and glide through the air

CLEM SOHN AMERICAN 1920-37

Nicknamed the Bird Man, he soared through the skies with his wings outstretched. The wings in question were actually made of canvas, and were fixed to metal bars running through Clem Sohn's jumpsuit. The daredevil performer was originally a 'delayed jumper', an airshow skydiver who would delay opening his parachute for as long as possible to impress the crowds. However, after debuting his wing suit in 1935, he started a new trend and hoped to one day land without a parachute at all. Sadly, two years later, 'the Michigan Icarus' fell to his death when both his parachutes failed to open.

Petit was arrested for his World Trade Center stunt, but the charges were dropped in exchange for a performance in Central Park

ROSSA MATILDA RICHTER

ENGLISH 1863-UNKNOWN

Following a loud explosion and puff of smoke, 14-year-old Rossa Matilda Richter, performing as 'Zazel', flew six metres through the air and landed in a safety net to rapturous applause. Although her claim to being the first-ever human cannonball is contested, the stunt she performed in London in 1877 heralded a new kind of circus act. The gunpowder was just for show though, as springs were used to propel her into the air.



Zazel retired after breaking her back when a stunt went wrong

PORPHYRIUS THE CHARIOTEER

LIBYAN 480-UNKNOWN

Roman charioteers were the sports stars of their day, and none were more celebrated than Porphyrius. He raced for both major teams in 6th-century Constantinople, becoming the first to have statues erected by both groups in his honour. Typically these weren't built until a charioteer retired, but Porphyrius, who continued to race into his 60s, was the exception.



Porphyrius's monuments were built in the Hippodrome of Constantinople

Annie Taylor failed to make her fortune, as the manager she hired to promote her Niagara Falls stunt embezzled all the money she earned from it

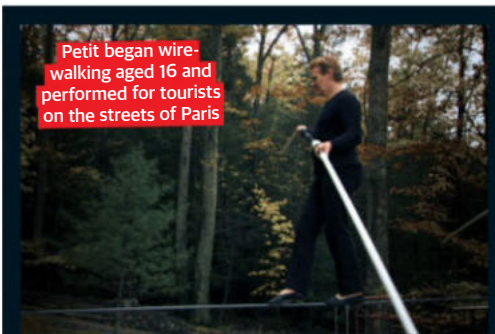
JOSEPH KITTINGER

AMERICAN 1928-PRESENT

With the clouds below him and nothing but darkness above, Air Force pilot Joseph Kittinger stepped out into the eerie silence of space and began his 31,333-metre fall back to Earth. On that day in August 1960, he had already broken one world record: the highest ascent in an open gondola dangling from a balloon. Four minutes and 36 seconds later, when his parachute opened, he had broken two more: the longest freefall and the fastest speed reached by a human unaided. Finally, by the time he touched down, the record for longest parachute decent was his too.



Kittinger still holds the record for the longest freefall



Petit began wire-walking aged 16 and performed for tourists on the streets of Paris

PHILIPPE PETIT FRENCH 1949-PRESENT

On the morning of 7 August 1974, the citizens of New York City were looking up, gazing wide-eyed at a figure balancing on a thin wire, 400 metres above their heads. That figure was Philippe Petit, and although he was breaking the law, the crowd below cheered his incredible bravery. After years of secretly studying the newly built World Trade Center, Petit and his friends sneaked past the building's guards the night before and rigged a wire between the twin towers. After crossing the wire eight times, he finally obeyed the police and returned to solid ground a hero.

"Life should be lived on the edge"

Philippe Petit


ANNIE TAYLOR

AMERICAN 1838-1921

Left struggling financially after her husband died in the American Civil War, teacher Annie Taylor came up with a daring idea to achieve fame and fortune. On the day of her 63rd birthday, she was strapped into an old wooden pickle barrel lined with cushions and sent hurtling over the 53-metre Horseshoe Falls of the Niagara River. Although not the first person to go over the Niagara Falls, she was the first woman to attempt the drop, as well as the first person to do it in barrel.



Taylor survived the fall with only minor cuts and bruises



BLOODY MARY ON TRIAL

Henry VIII's deadliest daughter
or victim of Protestant propaganda?

Written by Nicola Tallis

When a princess was born to Henry VIII and his wife, Katherine of Aragon, on 18 February 1516, the royal couple were overjoyed. Named Mary, she was to be the couple's only surviving child, and as such her parents doted on her. Nevertheless, she was not the male heir that her father desperately needed to succeed him - a circumstance that would prove to be pivotal not only in her life, but in the life of all English citizens. However, for the first years of her life, Mary's childhood was a happy one. She was brought up surrounded by all the luxurious trappings of royalty, and was given a splendid Renaissance education befitting her status. She was an able pupil, and particularly excelled in languages.

In 1527, Mary's happy family life was shattered when her father loudly declared his intention to separate from her mother. He had fallen in love with one of the queen's ladies, Anne Boleyn, and Henry was certain she could give him what Katherine could not: a son. This was to be the start of the unhappiest period of Mary's life, and the effects on her would be permanent. As Henry began proceedings to have his marriage annulled in order to marry Anne, both he and his new love treated Mary with increasing unkindness.

Despite being separated from her mother, Katherine's strength gave Mary courage and, in the face of persistent bullying from the king, both mother and daughter refused to bow to his demands. They refused to acknowledge that

Katherine and Henry's marriage had been invalid, making Mary illegitimate. This angered Henry greatly, and caused a rift between father and daughter that was to continue for many years. On top of this, the effect that the psychological stress had on Mary was staggering: she suffered from bouts of ill health, and her emotions were in constant turmoil. Her father was unmoved by the fragile state of his daughter, and as the years passed and the annulment proceedings dragged on, life showed no signs of improving for Mary. "Few other women in the world of her rank ever lived more wretchedly," a Venetian ambassador would later remark.

In January 1533, Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, who was pregnant, were secretly married. Shortly



after, having endured seven years of frustration during which time the pope refused to annul his first marriage, Henry's authority as supreme head of the Church of England was formalised in parliament. In May, the king's archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, officially declared his marriage to Katherine to have been null and void: Mary was now formally disinherited. Neither Mary nor her mother accepted this pronouncement, but there was little that either of them could do.

On 7 September, much to the king's disappointment, Anne Boleyn gave birth to a daughter. Named Elizabeth, her birth had profound consequences for the 17-year-old Mary, and the seeds of the half-sister's turbulent relationship were sown here. Shortly after Elizabeth's birth, Mary's household was broken up and she was sent to join the household of her infant sister at

elated, but her triumph was short-lived. On the day of Katherine's funeral, Anne miscarried a child that had the appearance of being male. Like Katherine before her, Anne had failed to produce a living son, and the king's patience was exhausted. In May, Anne was executed on trumped-up charges of adultery and incest, and, like her sister before her, Elizabeth was declared illegitimate.

At the end of the month, the king married for a third time, taking as his wife one of Anne's ladies, Jane Seymour. Unlike Anne, Queen Jane was sympathetic to Mary, and through her efforts, father and daughter were reconciled. But it came at a cost: Henry demanded that Mary acknowledge him as supreme head of the Church of England, and admit that her mother's marriage had been, "by God's law and man's incestuous and unlawful," making herself illegitimate.



"There is no doubt that Mary's tumultuous childhood had caused deep and permanent scars"

Hatfield, where Anne Boleyn's aunt, Lady Shelton, supervised her. To make matters worse, on 23 March 1534, the Act of Succession was passed through parliament, legally disinheriting Mary and depriving her of the title princess. From now on she was to be referred to as the Lady Mary.

Throughout this time, Mary clung to her Catholic faith, which gave her strength and brought her comfort. She was frequently plagued by ill health, yet she still refused to acknowledge Anne Boleyn as the queen of England. This caused Anne great frustration, and she ordered her aunt to "box her ears as a cursed bastard" if Mary continued to refer to herself as princess, but it did not come to that.

Worse was to come for Mary, when, on 7 January 1536, her mother died. She was distraught, and fell ill shortly afterwards. Anne Boleyn was

On the advice of the Spanish ambassador, Mary finally agreed to do so. She never forgave herself for what she perceived to be the betrayal of her mother, but her circumstances immediately improved. She was welcomed back to court and into her father's favour, and she soon became close to her stepmother. Furthermore, she was chosen as godmother to the longed-for son, Edward, that Queen Jane gave birth to in October 1537. Her restoration to favour, however, was only successful in personal terms, and Mary remained legally disinherited by her father. There is no doubt that Mary's tumultuous childhood had caused deep and permanent scars - her father would later acquire a reputation as a tyrant, and it is fair to say that Mary was one of his victims.



Mary uses her 'royal touch' to cure a subject's scrofula. English monarchs were thought to possess healing powers

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

Get to know the other Marys in the House of Tudor



MARY TUDOR

1496-1533

STATUS: HENRY VIII'S SISTER

The first Mary Tudor was Henry VIII's younger sister, of whom he was extremely fond. It is often claimed that Henry's famous ship, Mary Rose, was named in her honour, but there is no evidence for this. Mary was the namesake of Mary I.



MARY OF GUISE

1515-60

STATUS: CONSORT OF JAMES V OF SCOTLAND AND REGENT

The French-born second wife of James V of Scotland was mother to Mary, Queen of Scots. Following the death of her husband six days after her daughter's birth, Mary acted as regent of Scotland on her daughter's behalf.



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

1542-87

STATUS: QUEEN OF SCOTS AND MARY'S SECOND COUSIN

Mary, Queen of Scots, is arguably one of the worst monarchs ever to have ruled. She was the granddaughter of Henry VIII's elder sister, Margaret Tudor, and her husband James IV of Scotland.



MARY GREY

c.1545-78

STATUS: THE QUEEN'S SECOND COUSIN

Mary Grey was the youngest sister of the executed Lady Jane Grey, and may have been named in honour of her second cousin. Mary I treated her and her elder sister, Katherine, with kindness, but both sisters would later experience Queen Elizabeth I's wrath when they each married without royal consent.

MONARCHS WITH A TASTE FOR MURDER



CHRISTIAN II OF DENMARK

REIGN: 1513-23

When Christian invaded Sweden in 1520, the king broke his promise of a general amnesty by ordering the execution of between 80-90 members of the Swedish nobility. This atrocity became known as the Stockholm Bloodbath, and Christian was later deposed.

ESTIMATED KILL

80-90



MARY I

REIGN: 1553-58

Mary's estimated kill count includes not only the 284 Protestants that were burned at the stake but also Lady Jane Grey and her supporters, as well as many of those who had joined the Wyatt Rebellion. Despite her nickname of Bloody Mary, she was by no means as ruthless as many of her fellow monarchs.

ESTIMATED KILL

300-380



CHARLES IX OF FRANCE

REIGN: 1560-74

It was during Charles's reign that the mass murder of French Huguenots known as the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre was committed. Although estimates of the number killed vary and Charles was not responsible for all of these, he did order the murder of the leaders, which began the massacre.

ESTIMATED KILL

2,000-30,000



ISMAIL 'THE BLOODTHIRSTY' OF MOROCCO

REIGN: 1672-1727

Also known as the Warrior King, Ismail acquired a reputation for the torture and execution of his enemies. He also had the severed heads of up to 10,000 of his enemies displayed on the city gates of Fez as a gruesome warning to his people.

ESTIMATED KILL

30,000



IVAN THE TERRIBLE

REIGN: 1547-84

Ivan only admitted to killing 3,750 people during his reign, but the reality was far worse. He ruled Russia with ruthlessness, and even killed his own son. As a child he tortured animals, and in adulthood raped and mass murdered a number of his subjects.

ESTIMATED KILL

60,000



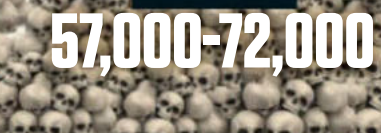
HENRY VIII

REIGN: 1509-47

The number of people killed during the reign of Mary's father has almost certainly been grossly exaggerated, but it is true that the king ordered the executions of a number of people close to him, including two of his wives.

ESTIMATED KILL

57,000-72,000



MATCH-MAKING AND MATRIMONY

How Philip and Mary made it to the altar

Mary's mother, Katherine of Aragon, had always hoped that her daughter would make a Spanish match. It was a wish that Mary also cherished, but she had never met her future bridegroom, Philip, and in a similar manner to other foreign royal marriages, there was a protocol to be adhered to.

EXCHANGE PORTRAITS



In the case of foreign marriages when it was not always possible to see your future spouse in person, it was common for portraits to be sent to your intended. In some instances this did not

work out well, the most famous example being that of Mary's father and Anne of Cleves - he fell in love with her portrait but was repulsed by her in person. Mary had no such worries, and was besotted with Philip's portrait by Titian.

CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS



In January 1554, representatives of Philip's father, the Emperor Charles V, arrived in London in order to finalise the negotiations

for Philip and Mary's marriage. At this time it was agreed that Philip would not be given any authority above the queen, and would merely assist her in her duties as her consort.

WRITE LETTERS AND SEND GIFTS



Once the negotiations had been concluded, it was common to write letters and send lavish gifts to your intended. Philip and

Mary exchanged gifts of diamonds, and Philip also presented Mary with the world-famous La Peregrina pearl.

THE WEDDING



On 25 July 1554, Philip and Mary were married in a splendid ceremony at Winchester Cathedral. It was conducted in Latin,

and after the wedding the couple spent ten days honeymooning in the city, residing at Wolvesey Palace.

Fighting for her rights

Henry VIII died on 28 January 1547 and was succeeded by his nine-year-old son, Edward VI. Despite his earlier treatment of his daughter, in the latter years of Henry's reign, life had become more settled for Mary. She had a privileged lifestyle, and her accounts reveal that she appreciated fine food, was fond of clothes and jewels, and loved music. She also liked to ride and hunt, and gambled at cards. She had enjoyed good relationships with most of her stepmothers, particularly her father's last wife, Katherine Parr. Furthermore, though both she and Elizabeth remained legally

Catholicism, but her defiance caused a permanent rift in her relationship with her half-brother. When the 15-year-old Edward died childless in July 1553, it was discovered that rather than honouring the terms set out in his father's will, he had named his Protestant cousin, Lady Jane Grey, as his heir to the throne. Once again an attempt had been made to deprive Mary of her rights.

On 10 July, Lady Jane Grey was publicly proclaimed queen. Mary, meanwhile, had learned of her half-brother's death and the attempts to oust her from her place in the succession, but rather than bowing down, she was determined

"Mary had compromised her faith once during the reign of her father, and was determined not to do so again"

illegitimate, her father had restored them both to their place in the succession should their half-brother, Edward, die childless. Despite the fact they had both been raised as Protestants, she was fond of her younger siblings, and often lavished them with gifts.

But life would become increasingly difficult for Mary under Edward's rule. He was as fervently Protestant as Mary was Catholic, and was determined to ensure that his realm became a wholly Protestant nation. Mary had compromised her faith once during the reign of her father, and was determined not to do so again. She steadfastly refused to conform to any other religion than

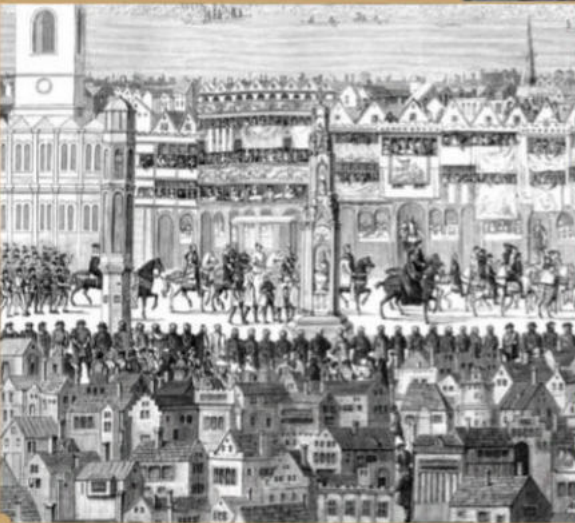
to fight. She fled into East Anglia where she was a major landowner, and incredibly popular; this proved to be a wise move. Making her way to her stronghold of Framlingham Castle, Mary was able to rally her supporters, who flocked to her banner in the coming days. Though Lady Jane Grey's father-in-law, the Duke of Northumberland, set out to apprehend her, his mission proved to be fruitless. Rather than gaining support as he had hoped, Northumberland's forces began to desert him in favour of Mary. As soon as he left London, sensing the mood of the people and hearing of the increased support for Mary, the Privy Council finally decided to abandon Jane.



Edward VI was committed to continuing his father's work, seen here renewing a gifted hospital to the City of London



Mary's entry into London, accompanied by over 800 followers, proved very popular with the crowds



4. The L. Lady? After some 10 days in which from
 when after satisfaction she was called in
 counsel into a chamber, where was declared the
 long i had suffered her misse ~~unhappy~~
 in hope of her reconciliation, and then
 being no hope, with i perswaded by her letters
 except i for few first amendments, i could no
 longer. She answered that her soul was yet
 not her faith the world nor changing, so deserv
 her opinion in every thing. To me ~~unhappy~~
 confirmed in her faith, but with her ~~unhappy~~
 to stay in mind And thus her example may
 be much to be commended. As a father
 hand is much to be commended.

5. Therefore consideration came at short way
 from his mother of misse, if i would not
 suffer her often the promise to use her
 advice. To this was an answer given in
 this way, that she was

6. The Wf. of Canterbury, London, and Rochester
 did conclude to give her some 10 pence was given
 to suffer her and was a for a time, might
 be borne, so at last possible might be

An extract from Edward VI's diary, about his father's attempt to change Mary's religious views

By 19 July, Mary had won the day without a drop of bloodshed: Lady Jane was deposed, and Mary was proclaimed queen to the great joy of her subjects. Jane was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and, on 3 August, Mary entered London in triumph: the dark days of uncertainty and turmoil she had experienced throughout her life now appeared to be at an end, and she had at last come into her rightful inheritance.

Queen Mary

On 1 October, Mary's achievements seemed to be complete when she succeeded in becoming the first queen regnant of England to be crowned. A queen regnant reigning supreme in England was unprecedented, and thus Mary had no example from which to follow. This certainly later worked in her half-sister Elizabeth's favour, as she was able to learn from Mary's mistakes. Mary, however, had good reason to believe that a woman could rule successfully. Her maternal grandmother, Isabella of Castile, had been an effective monarch in her own right, and Mary's mother had always believed that her daughter could do the same.

Four days after the coronation, Mary's parliament met and passed the First Statute of Repeal. This erased all of the religious policies that had been put in place by Edward VI, for Mary was determined that England ought to be returned to the Catholic Church under the jurisdiction of the pope. At the same time, she was given the opportunity to correct a wrong that had remained with her for many years: the marriage of her parents, which had been denounced by Thomas Cranmer, was declared to be valid, finally securing her own legitimacy.

In a further step to secure her position, in April 1554, parliament passed the Act for Regal Power. This consolidated the queen's power "as fully and absolutely" as it had been in any of Mary's male predecessors: despite her sex, her authority was to be on a level with theirs.

Though Mary was queen in her own right, it never occurred to her that she would rule alone. From her infancy she had been primed for



THE LOSS OF CALAIS

The recapture of England's last continental possession stung

With her husband Philip's encouragement, Mary finally agreed to lend English support to Spain's war against France in March 1556. It was an unpopular move, and stretched the country's already limited resources to the limit. Under the leadership of the Earl of Pembroke, the English Army fought well and achieved a decisive victory against the French at Saint Quentin in 1557. However, the same

could not be said of the English garrison stationed at Calais, and on New Year's Day 1558, 27,000 French troops attacked the town. On 7 January, it surrendered and was declared a reclaimed land.

Calais was the last English possession in France, and had been in its hands since 1347 when Edward III captured the town. The loss was both disastrous and humiliating for England, and the diarist Henry

Machyn recorded that it was, "... the heaviest tidings to London and to England that ever was heard of." Moreover, plans to try to regain possession came to nothing. For centuries, blame for the loss of Calais has been aimed squarely at Mary. This is too simplistic a view, however, and at the time it was not seen in this way. It is therefore unfair to attribute it wholly to Mary's actions.

1553: THE YEAR OF THREE SOVEREIGNS



Henry VIII's heirs and the struggle for the throne

Early in 1553, Edward VI lay dying. The 15-year-old king was unmarried and had no children, thus thoughts turned to the succession. By the terms of the late King Henry VIII's will, passed in parliament, should Edward die childless then the throne should pass first to the king's eldest daughter, Mary, and her heirs, followed by his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, and her heirs. Both daughters had, however, been

previously declared illegitimate and never formally legitimated. Moreover, Edward was determined to ensure a Protestant succession, which would be impossible should Mary succeed.

Realising he could not exclude one half-sister without also excluding the other, Edward cut both Mary and Elizabeth out of the succession by means of an extraordinary document: *My*

Devise For The Succession. In this, Edward named his second cousin, the Protestant Lady Jane Grey, as his heir. Jane had already been named as the next heir by Henry VIII should his children die childless, but at the stroke of a pen she superseded both of the king's daughters. There was no time for Edward to pass his *Devise* through parliament, so when he died on 6 July 1553, the *Devise* was illegal.

marriage, and it had always been anticipated that she would marry abroad. She had been briefly betrothed to her cousin, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, when she was only six years old, but the negotiations had come to nothing. Almost immediately after her accession therefore, thoughts of matrimony began to occupy not only Mary's mind, but those of her councillors, too. Though various candidates were suggested, the most popular being Mary's English cousin, Edward Courtenay, in Mary's mind the decision had already been made. She declared her intention to wed her second cousin, Philip of Spain. He was the son of the emperor, and was 11 years Mary's junior. He was an

attractive prospect to Mary because of his Spanish heritage and his familial links with her mother, but she was naïve if she thought that her decision would be accepted without protest: her personal wishes overruled her political judgement.

Rebellion, death and imprisonment

The idea of a Spanish marriage was unpopular in England, but the queen was blind to the concerns of her subjects. Not only was Philip a Catholic, he was also a foreigner; the English were suspicious of foreigners, and it was greatly feared that Philip would try to embroil England in Spain's wars.

Unknown to Mary, there were those in the country who were determined to protest against the marriage, and a plot was afoot that would test the loyalty of her subjects, and threatened to undo everything she had fought for.

Under the leadership of Sir Thomas Wyatt, a Kentish gentleman, a rebellion was planned that sought not only to prevent Mary's marriage to Philip but also to deprive Mary of her throne. Instead, she would be replaced with her Protestant half-sister, Elizabeth, who almost certainly had some prior knowledge of the plot. More crucially, one of the key conspirators was Henry Grey, duke of Suffolk, the father of Lady Jane Grey who had been incarcerated in the Tower since Mary's accession. Upon learning of the rebellion, Mary took matters into her own hands. Standing in front of her subjects at London's Guildhall, she beseeched her subjects to stand firm against the traitor Wyatt and his followers, and to remain true to their anointed sovereign. Her powerful words had the desired effect, and Mary's people remained loyal to their queen. The rebellion was a washout, and Wyatt and his followers were captured. Mary had been victorious once again.

The failure of the Wyatt Rebellion had disastrous consequences for Lady Jane Grey, and her father's involvement sealed her fate. Mary's hand was now forced, and under enormous pressure from her advisers she had no choice but to order Jane's execution. Mary agonised over the decision, and tried to find a way around it, but there was none. On 12 February 1554, 17-year-old Jane was executed.

It was not just Jane who was to suffer as a result of Wyatt's treason. Before long, Mary's officers had arrived at Elizabeth's door in order to summon her to London for questioning over her role in the rebellion. Pleading ill health, upon her arrival in the capital Elizabeth had the curtains of her litter drawn back so that the citizens could witness the pitiful state she was in. Dressed in white, she made a startling impression against the blood-red livery of her guards. It was a clever ploy, one designed to move the citizens to sympathy on Elizabeth's behalf, and it worked. It was precisely the type of

"Under enormous pressure from her advisers she had no choice but to order Jane's execution"



Lady Jane Grey spends her last moments praying before the fall of the executioner's axe

SISTER ACT

Mary I and Elizabeth I: just how similar were the two Tudor queens?



MARY I



ELIZABETH I

VS

LENGTH OF REIGN

5 YEARS | 45 YEARS

INTELLIGENCE

Both Mary and her half-sister were given an excellent education. Though her abilities as a scholar were never exclaimed as highly as Elizabeth's, Mary was an intelligent woman. A contemporary observed that, "...she is skilled in five languages," speaking four fluently.

Elizabeth was highly praised for her intellect, and her tutors were unanimously impressed with her. She took great pleasure in showcasing her skills by translating work into various languages and presenting it as gifts, notably to her father and Katherine Parr.

POPULARITY

LOVED IN HER LIFETIME

At the time of Mary's accession, she was so popular that many remarked on the commotion in London when her proclamation was read out. However, by her death, her popularity had long since faded.

STILL LOVED TODAY

Although Mary had initially been popular, this was nothing in comparison to Elizabeth. In addition, Elizabeth had the common touch that her sister lacked, and was able to retain the love of her people.

LOVE

UNHAPPILY MARRIED

Mary was deeply in love with her husband, Philip of Spain, and always felt great sorrow when he left England. Although her feelings were not reciprocated, Philip did at least treat his wife with courtesy.

THE VIRGIN QUEEN

Elizabeth never married, and the closest she came to love was with her friend Robert Dudley. Rumours circulated, however, it seems likely that, by her death, Elizabeth was still the 'Virgin Queen'.

MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS

LOST CALAIS

Mary succeeded in asserting her right to the throne following the death of Edward VI, raising a large army of supporters. But when England declared war on France, early success was followed by the loss of Calais.

DEFEATED THE SPANISH ARMADA

The most famous victory of Elizabeth's reign was the defeat of the Spanish Armada, sent by Mary's former husband, Philip, in 1588. After this she was hailed as the saviour of the English people.

KILLINGS

300-380

Not only did Mary order the execution of Lady Jane Grey and many of those close to her, she also sentenced 284 Protestants to be burned at the stake, including the man who had annulled her parents' marriage, Thomas Cranmer.

200+

Although Elizabeth did not burn Catholics in the way Mary had Protestants, she did order the disembowelment of more than 200. She also famously ordered the execution of another anointed queen, Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1587.

Philip II was a powerful monarch who controlled territory on each continent then known to Europeans

Bloody Mary On Trial

display that Queen Mary had hoped to avoid. Taken to the Palace of Whitehall for questioning, evidence against Elizabeth was not forthcoming. Convinced of her complicity in the rebellion, however, Mary was hopeful that a spell in the Tower of London would break her resolve of innocence. Though Elizabeth protested that she was Mary's "most faithful subject", Mary was unmoved, and in March her half-sister was imprisoned. She remained there until May, when a lack of evidence forced Mary to release her. This was not the end of the matter, however, and Elizabeth was sent to Woodstock under house arrest, where she remained for nearly a year. Mary never trusted Elizabeth again, and was always suspicious of her.

The Wyatt Rebellion did not prevent plans for Mary's marriage, however, and in July 1554, Philip landed in England. That same month, the two were married in a magnificent ceremony at Winchester Cathedral. For Mary, the marriage was the fulfilment of all of her hopes and she was in love. However, her feelings were unrequited and though Philip treated Mary with courtesy, the marriage was based on politics. Nevertheless, by the autumn Mary believed that she was pregnant, and proudly announced her happy news. Despite showing many signs of pregnancy, by June 1555 it became clear that



Mary proudly displays the La Peregrina pearl, a gift from Philip

there was no baby, and Mary was forced to admit so too. It was the first of two phantom pregnancies she would suffer, dashing all of her hopes for a Catholic heir to succeed her. To make matters worse, Philip, the husband she loved so dearly, abandoned her on both occasions, leaving England for the last time in 1557. Mary was now alone.

"The former archbishop of Canterbury recanted his beliefs six times. In spite of this, Mary insisted that he must burn"

Protestant burnings

Shortly after Mary's succession, she began to take steps to restore the old religion to her land, and it was not long before it became clear that those who adhered to Protestantism were not safe. Many fled abroad to avoid persecution, but for some this was simply not an option, and many were forced to pay the ultimate price for their beliefs.

In February 1555, the first burnings of Mary's reign began: a total of 284 Protestants were burned, 56 of whom were women. During the reign of Elizabeth, the historian William Camden would write that Mary's, "...days have been ill spoken of, by reason of the barbarous cruelty of the Bishops, who with a most sad spectacle, in all places polluted England by burning Protestants alive." It is interesting to note that Camden did not attribute the blame for the atrocities directly to Mary, but rather her advisers.

Much of the tarnish on Mary's reputation, however, has come from the martyrologist John Foxe. His *Acts And Monuments* highlighted the suffering of the victims, and became the most widely read book written in English after the *Bible*: it damned Mary's reputation. Burning was the rarest form of Tudor punishment, and executions like these were designed to shock people into conforming. In some cases it worked: Thomas Cranmer, former archbishop of Canterbury, recanted his beliefs six times. In spite of this, Mary insisted that he must burn. She still bore a deep grudge for the role he had played in the unhappiness of her early life, but his death was one of her greatest mistakes. Had he been spared, his recantation would have served as excellent propaganda for the new regime. But dead, he was a martyr. Cranmer was burned on 21 March 1556 at Oxford.

Death and legacy

In November 1558, Mary lay dying. Her husband was far away, and she was childless and estranged from her half-sister. Though she could not bring herself to say her name, Mary had accepted that 25-year-old Elizabeth would succeed her. On 17 November, Mary died at Saint James's Palace, and Elizabeth's succession was greeted with the wave of popular enthusiasm that had greeted Mary just five years earlier. Though Mary undoubtedly made mistakes, notably the imprisonment of Elizabeth and the burning of Cranmer, she also had strengths. She had survived the many adversities that had been placed in her path since childhood, and had ultimately triumphed over her enemies on many occasions. As queen she had asserted her authority as the first female monarch to reign supreme. With no template to work from, however, it was easy for Elizabeth to capitalise on her mistakes. Furthermore, had it not been for Foxe's *Acts And Monuments*, she would not have earned the nickname Bloody Mary, and she may have been remembered with greater sympathy.



Mary's execution of Protestants has coloured our historical perception of her

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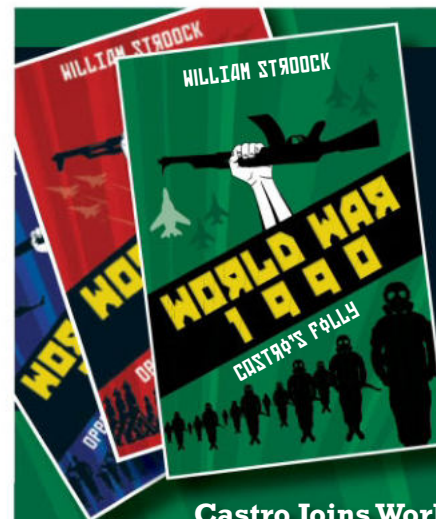
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Through History MASKS

From Neolithic limestone faces to mass-produced plastic guises, the history of the mask spans millennia, cultures, uses and meanings



Carnival masks are a centuries-old tradition in Venice

CARNIVAL MASK 1268

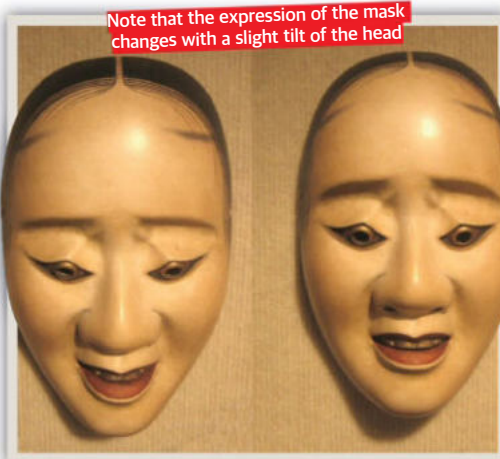
Carnival season is a period of revelry before the austerity of Lent. The word comes from the Medieval Latin 'carnelevarium', meaning 'to remove meat', and in Italy it's thought the season may be linked to the Roman festival of Saturnalia. One of the most famous and most resplendent carnivals is in Venice, where the traditional flamboyant masks were made from leather and porcelain. The masks enable the wearers to not only conceal their identities but to assume another entirely, with traditional characters inspired by the masks of the Italian theatre form *commedia dell'arte*.

RITUAL MASK C.6900 BCE

The earliest masks in human history are over 9,000 years old, found in Israel. They show human features carved out of limestone, and are believed to be portraits of important ancestors. Experts think these symbols of genealogy may have been used to prove land ownership, but are believed to have also had an important spiritual connection and been used in ancestral cult rituals. Nine millennia later, ritual masks of all kinds are used by tribes and cults around the globe, with a similar spiritual significance. They enable the wearer to assume a new identity, enhancing their connection to a spiritual world as a medium of transformation.



It's thought these masks were sculpted by early farmers



Note that the expression of the mask changes with a slight tilt of the head

THEATRICAL MASK 5TH CENTURY BCE

The use of a mask to cover the face has been a part of theatre for thousands of years, and the ancient Greeks incorporated masks into performance as well as ceremonial ritual and worship of Dionysus - the god of wine. There are many theatre forms throughout history that have used highly stylised masks, such as the Japanese theatrical art of Noh, which dates back to the 13th century. The Noh masks are carved from cypress wood and are very simple yet beautiful, designed to subtly show character traits of five types: gods, demons, men, women and the elderly.

LIFE AND DEATH MASKS 3000 BCE

These masks are casts of a person's face. Death masks were taken using plaster or wax, and were used to preserve the person's features as a token of remembrance. They also provided a likeness to use as a reference for portraits and sculptures, especially funeral effigies for royalty and nobility.

In contrast, without photography, a life mask was the best way to capture the look of a person's identity. The first people to make death masks were the Ancient Egyptians, the most famous being King Tutankhamun's burial mask.



Ancient Egyptians made death masks so the soul could recognise the body and return after death

HALLOWEEN MASK 1900S

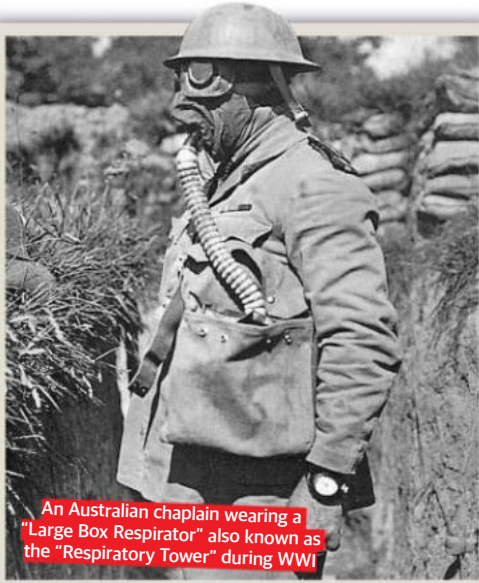
Wearing fancy dress on Halloween began in the USA, where people of all social classes celebrated the holiday. In the early 1900s, people used masks of papier-mâché to dress up in a ghostly fashion before mass-produced costumes arrived in the 1930s. One of the most famous Halloween masks is from the movie *Scream*: a plastic mask made by the company Fun World. It may have been discovered hanging on the wall of an old house by one of the film's producers while scouting locations for another movie, who decided it was perfect for the film.



The 'Ghostface' mask from the *Scream* movie was based on Edvard Munch's composition called *The Scream*

Charles de Lorme FRENCH 1584-1678

Physician to French King Louis XIII and Gaston d'Orléans, Charles De de Lorme was concerned with the spread of bubonic plague as it ravaged populations across Europe. He is credited with the invention of the plague doctors' suit in 1619, a garb that was used throughout Europe despite its effectiveness being unproven.



An Australian chaplain wearing a "Large Box Respirator" also known as the "Respiratory Tower" during WWI

GAS MASK 1915

Smoke protectors and respirators have been in development for centuries, but it wasn't until World War I that gas masks were mass-produced and made available to everyone. After the first gas attack in Ypres in 1915, 'black veil' gas masks were distributed, which consisted of woollen pads soaked in chemicals that covered the nose and mouth and tied behind the head. Soon, smoke hoods were invented, and then in World War II the traditional gas mask with the circular eye holes and large air filter drums attached were issued to all British citizens during the Blitz.

Cluny Macpherson

CANADIAN 1879-1966

A military doctor from Newfoundland, Macpherson served in Europe from March 1915. He acted as an adviser on the use of poisonous gas and went on to invent one of the first usable gas masks by taking a German helmet, fashioning a hood with eye holes to attach and treating it with chlorine-absorbing chemicals.



Illustrator David Lloyd gave V the mask, as he thought that Guy Fawkes ought to be celebrated instead of burned

BEAK MASK 1619

The sinister-looking attire of the plague doctor was designed with protection in mind. Believing that the plague spread by miasma, a noxious form of 'bad air', the beak mask was filled with pungent herbs and spices to keep the perceived threat at bay. The design has been credited to French physician Charles de Lorme, and was worn along with the head-to-toe wax-coated suit used during the Plague of 1656. Doctors would also carry a long wooden stick to lift patients' clothes to examine them.

"The masks enable the wearers to not only conceal their identities but to assume another entirely"



There were two holes in the beak near the wearer's nostrils

GUY FAWKES 1800S

Since the gunpowder plot of 1605, Guy Fawkes has stood as a figurehead of anarchy. Children started wearing masks of his likeness around 5 November in the Victorian era, but the Fawkes mask has a much more modern significance. In a 1988 graphic novel called *V For Vendetta*, the main character, V, wears a Fawkes mask. Made into a film in 2006, the final scene inspired the activist group Anonymous to wear the masks to protect their identities in their first protest in 2008. Ever since, it has become a symbol of protest in many different movements.

TORTURE MASK

16TH CENTURY

These 'masks' were actually more like muzzles, used to inflict pain and punishment. Mostly used on people who were deemed foolish, stupid or dirty, the 'mask of infamy' was an iron contraption that was placed on the head to humiliate the wearer. They were often staked outside for the public to see, and the iron would heat up in the sun. Some masks of infamy also had elements that were placed into the wearer's mouth to prevent them from speaking - this was also known as a 'scold's bridle', used to punish outspoken women.

Luchador 'El Santo'

MEXICAN 1917-84

Real name Rodolfo Guzmán Huerta, 'El Santo' was a legendary luchador, a Mexican wrestler who pioneered the sport worldwide and helped to bring the vibrant spectacle of *lucha libre* (which translates as 'free fight') to the world stage. Mexican wrestlers wear masks as a way to define their persona and fighting style.



The scold's bridle was used almost exclusively on women



On Easter Sunday, the Nazarenos remove their masks, symbolising the joy of Jesus rising again

CAPIROTE MASK

16TH CENTURY

To many, these pointed masks are assumed to be related to the Ku Klux Klan, but they originated as part of a Roman Catholic tradition for Holy Week in Spain. In the 16th century, the church began elaborate street processions to educate about Christ's crucifixion. The capiroto masks cover the face as a symbol of mourning Jesus. The KKK adopted the costumes after they were depicted in a 1915 Hollywood film, which may have been influenced by the Nazareno processions. Prior to this, Klansmen did not wear uniform costumes.

In pictures

FIDEL CASTRO

Liberator or dictator? Discover the extraordinary life of one of the 20th century's most influential leaders

When it was announced on 25 November 2016 that Cuban ex-president Fidel Castro had died, there were parties in the street. Many Cubans saw him as an oppressive ruler who caused much suffering for his people. But there were also those who mourned the loss of a man who championed Cuban equality and social justice.

Castro led his revolution with a guerrilla army against US-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista, as he

detested the corruption and American influence Batista had let into Cuba. Castro wanted democracy, and after his victory he began a literary campaign to mobilise 100,000 volunteers to teach others how to read. Indeed, in 2000, Castro signed a deal with Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez to send doctors in exchange for much-needed oil.

He was, however, a prime enemy of the USA. With a communist state on its doorstep, the USA could not let Cuba prevail, and Operation

Mongoose in 1962 launched countless attacks on the state and on Castro himself. He survived a total of 638 assassination attempts by the CIA, which reportedly included deadly fungus, poisoned cigars and Botulinum toxin-laced dive suits.

After presiding over Cuba for nearly half a century, Castro died at the age of 90. He will be remembered as a controversial figurehead, for changing the face of Cuba forever and for refusing to be intimidated by superpower nations.



END OF THE REVOLUTION IN HAVANA, 1959

When they landed in Cuba, many of Castro's rebels were killed by Batista's forces. Castro fled to the mountains and established a command post, La Plata, from where he conducted his revolution. Batista fled; Castro entered Havana in January 1959.

AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION, 1990s

Cuba was very reliant on Soviet Moscow for military and economic aid. When the USSR collapsed, Cuba took an almighty blow. With a stuttering economy, Castro tightened food rationing and allowed limited private enterprise, especially in the tourism sector.

THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, 1962

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, in which the US and USSR narrowly averted nuclear war, Castro was frustrated at being left out of negotiations. American President John F Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev resolved terms between them, leaving Castro a pawn in the standoff.

CASTRO AS A BOY, C.1930

Born on 13 August 1926, Castro was the son of a wealthy sugar plantation owner and his maid. He was sent to boarding school, where he excelled at sports, and then later in life Castro attended Havana University to study law.

AFTER THE BAY OF PIGS, 1961

When he became the nation's leader, Castro began to immediately reduce American influence in Cuba. Diplomatic ties were severed, and the USA launched an unsuccessful full-scale invasion in 1961. Castro then strengthened relations with the USSR - here he is photographed with Khrushchev.



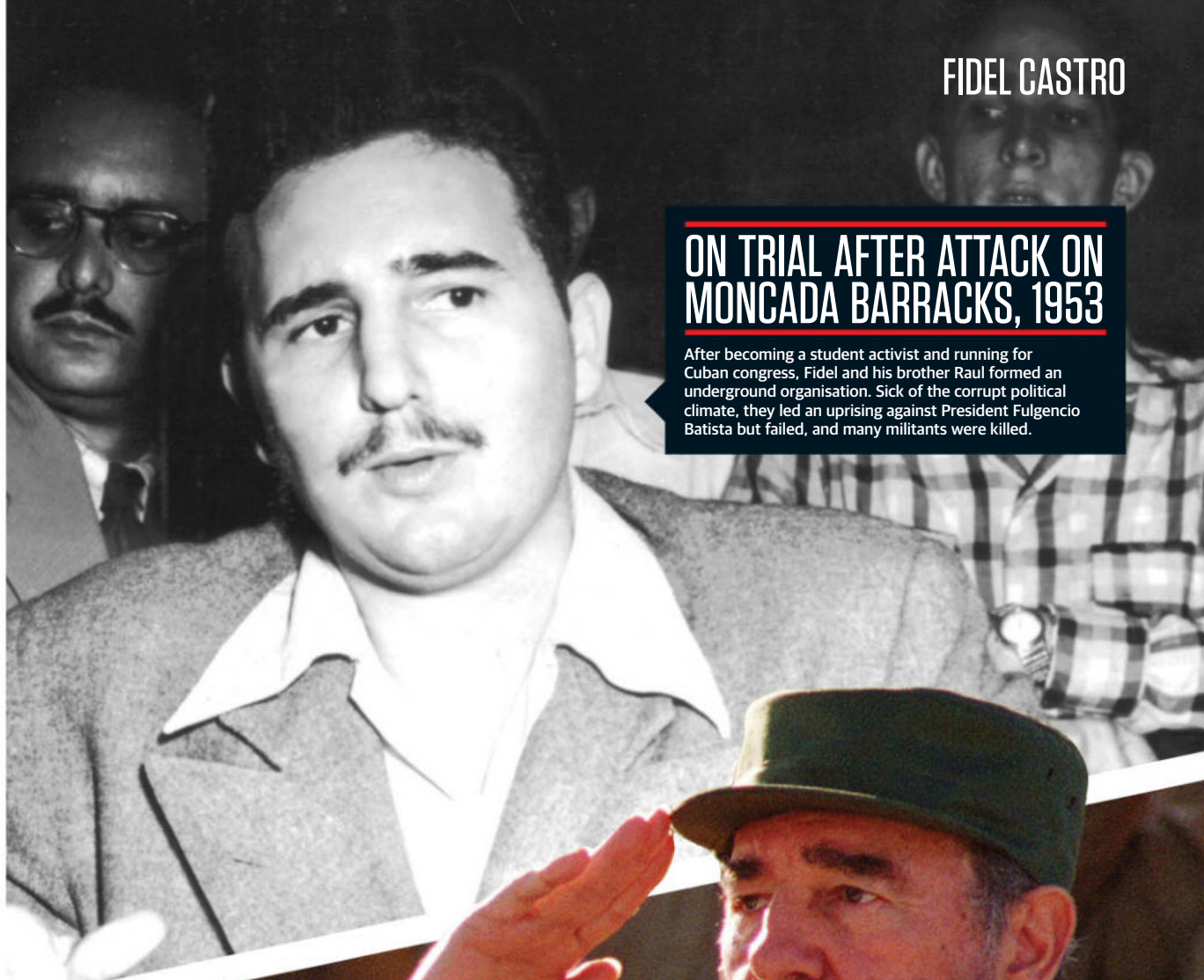
MEETING CHE GUEVARA, 1956

After 22 months in prison, Castro was exiled from Cuba. He travelled to Mexico, where he met the Argentinian rebel Ernesto 'Che' Guevara. Together, they formed a group of 82 exiled revolutionaries and sailed back to Cuba on a yacht in 1955.



ON TRIAL AFTER ATTACK ON MONCADA BARRACKS, 1953

After becoming a student activist and running for Cuban congress, Fidel and his brother Raul formed an underground organisation. Sick of the corrupt political climate, they led an uprising against President Fulgencio Batista but failed, and many militants were killed.



ENTRUSTING CUBA TO BROTHER RAUL, 2008

In 2006, Castro handed over leadership of Cuba to his brother Raul, leader of Cuba's armed forces. His ill health contributed to the decision and he never returned to politics, with Raul being unanimously voted in as president on 24 February 2008. Here, the brothers are pictured at a Havana parade in 1996.

Time Traveller's Handbook

FRENCH INDOCHINA

Southeast Asia, 1920s

France has played a role in Vietnam since the 17th century, when the Jesuit missionary Alexandre de Rhodes made the perilous journey to the region to spread Christianity. Since then, the French presence gradually increased and, in 1859, France captured Saigon and formed French Indochina. French rule destroyed the old Vietnamese systems and created a new one in which the elite could decide how best to govern the country. French intervention has opened up many new opportunities, modernising the country with railways, movies, automobiles, cities and even creating

a Roman alphabet. In the 1920s, after the discovery of rich oil deposits, the country is experiencing a boom, producing huge revenues for the elite and wealthy French investors. However, while the rich get richer, peasants - who make up 90 per cent of the population - are unable to reap any benefits. Opposition to French rule is also growing among the educated young Vietnamese, blocked from ascending the professional ladder. While it appears that Vietnam is enjoying the benefits of the Roaring Twenties, beneath the surface, hostility, frustration and revolution are brewing.



FIG.01

Did you know?
French citizenship is highly sought after and encouraged among the Vietnamese elite

WHERE TO STAY

Roughly speaking, the French have divided the region into three areas - Tonkin in the north, Annam in the centre and Cochinchina in the south, as well as several protectorates in Cambodia and Laos; your experience and quality of life will differ hugely depending on which area you choose to stay in. Cochinchina is the most populated and prosperous area and has been heavily influenced by French rule, with profitable rice and rubber plantations. However, in the protectorates, things are harder. With local rulers reigning, it is difficult to obtain French citizenship and there is strict control over the media and press.

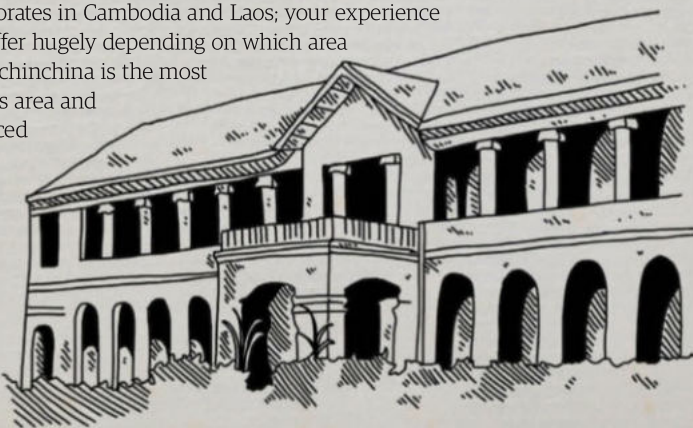


FIG.02

Dos & don'ts



Learn French.

Although native languages are still spoken, French is the official language of the region and is the language of government, trade and media in the country.



Visit Angkor Wat.

This stunning temple complex has become the symbol of French Colonialism in Vietnam, with a reconstruction made for the Colonial Exhibition in Paris.



Make some investments in coal, rice or rubber.

International demand for these products is huge, and it's the sure-fire way to make a healthy profit.



Try to meet Phan Chu Trinh.

This venerated nationalist is a pacifist who supports Vietnamese liberation through the education of his countrymen.



Make your opposition to French rule obvious.

Though political activity is encouraged in theory, the colonists are quick to quell any rebellious action.



Reject the chance to go to France to study.

This is a great opportunity to enhance your education and make key connections.



Forget to take advantage of the new transport links.

Including the new network of roads connecting market towns and the railways in Cambodia and Vietnam.



Join the peasant rebellions.

The French Foreign Legion will be sent in, seeing Nguyen Thai Hoc, the leader, executed and 546 collaborators given life sentences.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

The educated young

The French have been educating the young Vietnamese for many years - it is all part of the grand plan to make Vietnam more French. The young and wealthy go to France to study, then return and fill clerical positions in colonial administration. However, they often serve under French men far less educated and find it impossible to ascend higher. This frustration has encouraged a radical spirit, and although they currently have little power, they are using what they do have to fight French rule, such as by joining anti-French businesses. Due to the immense influence they will one day wield, it would be wise to get close to these disenchanted youths.

Extra tip:

One young man frustrated by French rule is Ho Chi Minh. He has gone from being employed on a ship and doing menial work in Paris to leading the petition for self-determination for the Vietnamese at the Paris Peace Conference. Ho Chi Minh will be a crucial friend to have in the independence movement to come.

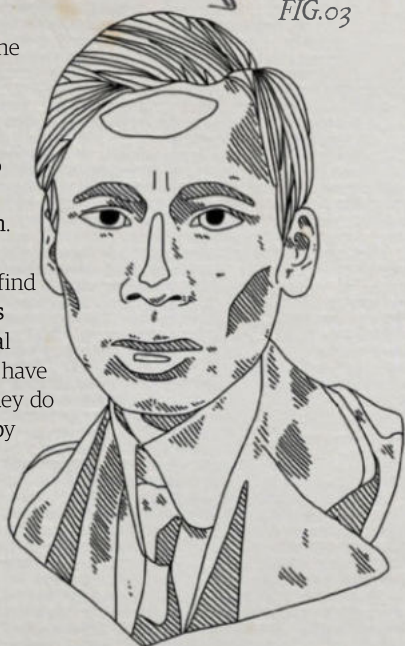


FIG.03

WHO TO AVOID

French administrators

There are more French bureaucrats in Vietnam than British in India, despite India's population being 15 times larger. The French are encouraging a 'traditional' culture of class divide and strict land ownership that exploits and controls the common people. Although economically the system works, this has plunged Vietnam into a kind of time warp. The French administration has effectively infantilised the Vietnamese, making it impossible for them to enter politics or encourage any kind of social change. Vietnamese or not, you should distance yourself from this kind of political repression, else get tarnished with the same brush.

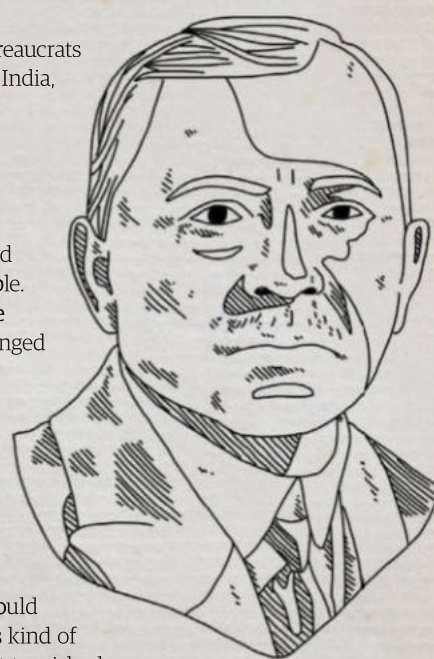


FIG.04

Helpful Skills

These three skills will help you survive in this rapidly developing region

Construction

Labour migration in and out of Indochina is massive. It isn't glamorous, but there is always work available for labourers, especially those able to help with the construction of railroads.

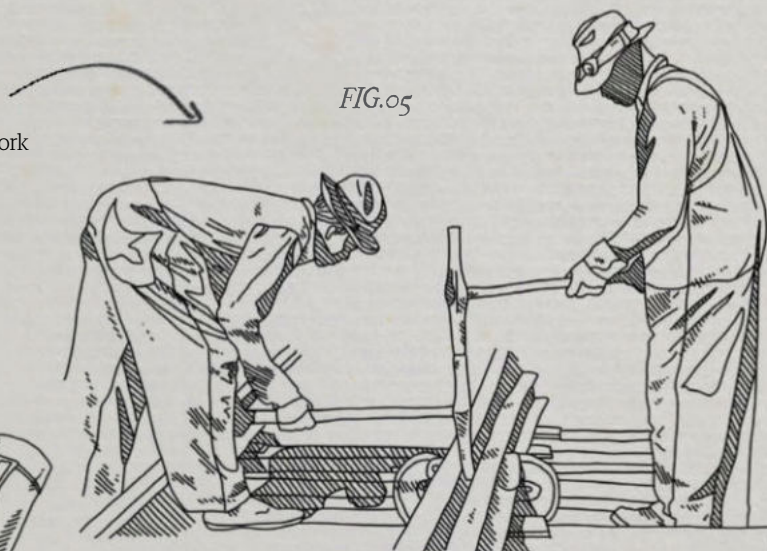


FIG.05

Political nous

The French have recently created a Vietnamese consultative body and added locals to their Colonial Council. This is the perfect opportunity for those with political skills and acumen to start making a difference.

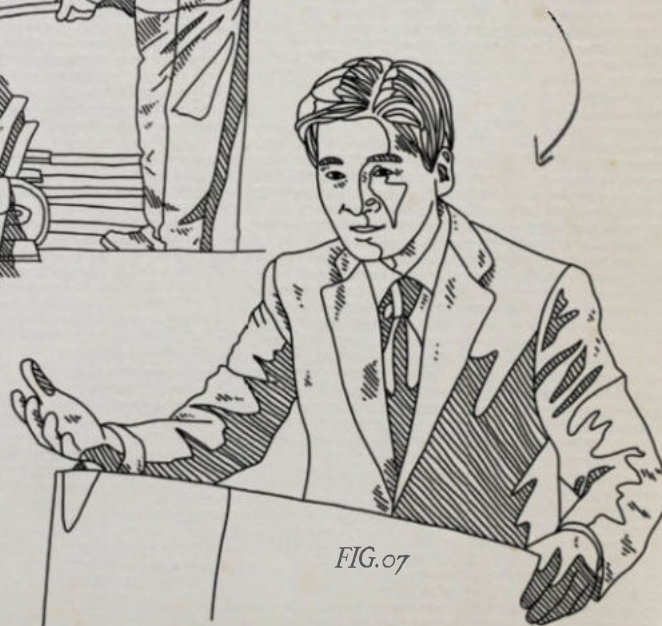


FIG.07

Writing

Print publications are becoming increasingly popular in Indochina - not only in the form of magazines and technical handbooks, but also novels and especially newspapers.

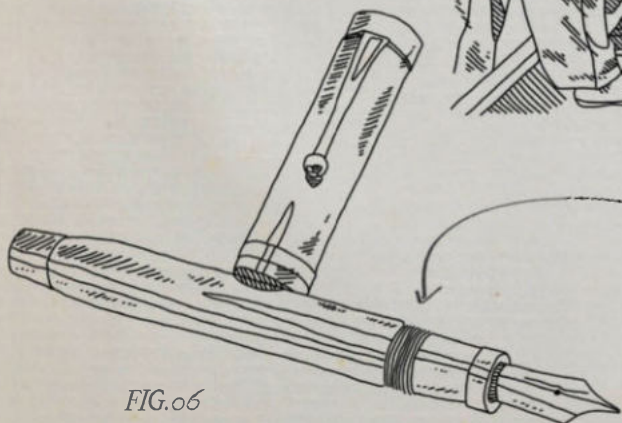
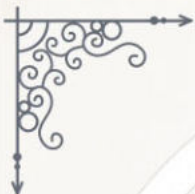


FIG.06



Notorious Royal Mistresses

The beauties, harlots and seductresses who vied for power from the royal bedchamber

→ Written by Nicola Tallis →

When a king succeeded to his title, he not only inherited the throne, but all of the trappings of royalty that came with it: jewels, palaces, money and servants to name but a few. It also became almost traditional for a king to have something else: a mistress. In many instances the king would take more than one mistress, and the women selected to join the king in his bedchamber would be chosen for a variety of reasons, and because they fulfilled certain criteria desirable to the king. Satisfying a king's sexual desires was only part of the equation and, in addition, mistresses

were often expected to entertain their royal lovers and provide good company.

Mistresses were frequently a cause of fascination to a king's court and subjects, and often triggered as much interest as the king themselves. While some shied away from this attention and did not seek any form of preferment, the majority actively encouraged this and flaunted themselves publicly. Moreover, mistresses often took full advantage of their position in order to promote their own interests, and those of their family and friends. If they were pleasing to the king, the rewards could be great - and life-changing.

Many mistresses came to exert an alarming amount of influence over their royal lovers, and sought not only their own advancement but also sometimes dabbled in politics. Unsurprisingly, this often led to resentment and jealousy both at court and between mistresses, and many were unpopular. In order to counteract a mistress's hold over a king, alternative candidates for his affection might be pushed forward in the hope of catching his eye. Whether loved or loathed, throughout history mistresses have proven to be just as great a talking point as kings and queens. Here are the stories of some of the most memorable.



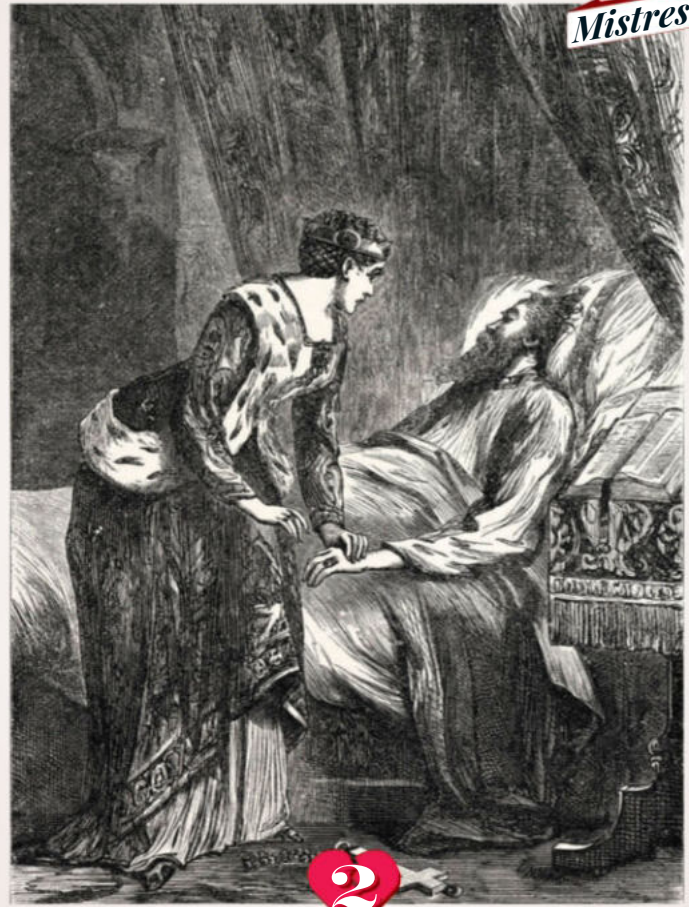
1

Eleanor de Guzman

Royal lover: Alfonso XI of Castile
Years as mistress: 1328-50

In around 1328, Alfonso met the beautiful Eleanor in Seville, and despite being recently married to Maria of Portugal, swiftly made Eleanor his mistress. In a further humiliating snub to Maria, in 1334 he abandoned her to live openly with Eleanor instead. Her royal lover's favour died with him in 1350, however, and intent upon revenge, Queen Maria ordered Eleanor's imprisonment and execution in 1351. However, Eleanor and Alfonso's son, Henry, eventually toppled Maria's son, Peter, and succeeded in becoming king of Castile.

*The king took a beau from Seville
But things took a turn for the ill
When the queen came to rule
She was vicious and cruel
But was chucked from the throne of Castile*



2

Alice Perrers

Royal lover: Edward III of England
Years as mistress: c.1364-77

Serving in the household of Edward III's wife, Queen Philippa, Alice caught the king's eye. Their relationship was not made public, however, until after Philippa's death in 1369. Alice was a grasping mistress who took full advantage of her position, accepting numerous costly gifts both from the king and those who wished to curry his favour. Unsurprisingly she was unpopular, and allegedly stole the rings from her lover's fingers as he lay dying. Following Edward's death, Alice was banished from court and never regained her former influence.

*There once was a servant who said
"I'd rather serve the king in his bed"
Then when he died
She pulled and she pried
The rings from his fingers instead*

14 Notorious Royal Mistresses



3

Agnes Sorel

Royal lover: Charles VII of France

Years as mistress: 1444-50

Regarded as a woman of exceptional beauty, Agnes managed to retain her royal lover's adoration until her death. She was made the first official royal mistress and was granted immense wealth to match her status. Agnes's influence with the king aroused jealousy, although she managed to remain on good terms with his wife, Queen Marie. When Agnes died in 1450, it was widely suspected that she had been poisoned, a theory that has been supported by recent scientific discoveries.

*She thought she was in with a chance
When dubbed royal mistress of France
But beauty and wealth
Can't buy you good health
For death is the foe of romance*

Mary Boleyn

Royal lover: Henry VIII of England

Years as mistress: c.1522-24/25

The most notorious of Henry VIII's mistresses, Mary was also the elder sister of Henry's second wife, Anne Boleyn. Her affair with the king, however, was over long before her sister's marriage. Nevertheless, at the time of their affair Henry was married to Katherine of Aragon, while Mary had been married to William Carey since 1520. Though Mary appears to have received little in terms of material benefits from the relationship, her husband received a number of royal grants suggestive of the monarch's gratitude. The affair was conducted discreetly, and the only public reference the king made was in 1535 when he was accused of having an affair with both Anne Boleyn's mother and sister. "Never with the mother," Henry replied firmly. Despite this, it is likely that Henry fathered Mary's eldest child, a daughter named Catherine. In 1543, Mary died in obscurity.

*Mary played a dangerous game
And she nearly got some of the same
As her dear sister Anne
Who fell afoul of the man
That gave the Tudors their fame*



4

Philandering kings and their illicit brood

With every royal affair came the risk of pregnancy. While some monarchs and mistresses openly embraced and flaunted their offspring, others were eager to keep them under wraps. For example, Charles II acknowledged most of his illegitimate children, and made sure that they were well provided for. By contrast, Henry VIII was so discreet about his extra-marital affairs that it is unclear precisely how many illegitimate children he had.



ISMAIL OF MOROCCO

Number of illegitimate children: 888-1,000



HENRY I OF ENGLAND

Number of illegitimate children: 15 acknowledged, but perhaps as many as 25



CHARLES II OF ENGLAND

Number of illegitimate children: 14 - 16



LOUIS XIV OF FRANCE

Number of illegitimate children: 12



WILLIAM IV OF ENGLAND

Number of illegitimate children: 10



MAGNUS III OF NORWAY

Number of illegitimate children: 5 acknowledged, but possibly 8



CHARLES V, HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR

Number of illegitimate children: 4 or possibly 5



Wallis Simpson

Royal lover: Edward VIII of England Years as mistress: 1934-72

The daughter of an unsuccessful American businessman, Wallis's story was a classic case of rags to riches. On 10 January 1931, in the house of Lady Furness in Melton Mowbray, Wallis met the man who would become her third husband: Edward, prince of Wales. By 1934, Edward had become completely dependent upon Wallis, and despite his position as heir to the throne and the fact that Wallis had been married twice, he was determined to make her his wife. Edward's love for Wallis did not fade when, on 20 January 1936, he ascended the throne as Edward VIII. By this time their affair was public, but there was one major obstacle: Wallis was in the process of divorcing her second husband, Ernest Simpson, and the whole situation was causing a scandal. Realising he was unable to marry her and retain his throne, Edward refused to give Wallis up - even if it meant abdication. Wallis, however, was determined that her lover ought not to abdicate, and tried every method of persuasion to convince him. But his love for Wallis overcame his sense of royal duty and, on 11 December 1936, Edward VIII abdicated in favour of his younger brother, who succeeded as George VI. Edward instead took up the title of Duke of Windsor, and following her divorce, Edward and Wallis were married in Touraine. The Windsors spent the rest of their married life together living abroad, and, despite their marriage, Wallis was not accepted or received by the royal family.

*Suffice to say she changed his life
Just by being another chap's wife
They said, "Would you mind,
If you left her behind?"
And jabbed in his back with a knife*

14 Notorious Royal Mistresses



6

Barbara Blomberg

Royal lover: Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor
Year as mistress: 1546

A singer by occupation and from a good Ratisbon family, Barbara's affair with the Emperor Charles V didn't last long. Her liaison with the most powerful monarch in Europe began when she sang for the emperor. His wife, Isabella of Portugal, was dead, and rather than remarry, Charles had taken solace in the arms of several mistresses. Though Barbara wielded no power over her royal lover and their affair was little more than a brief fling, it did result in Barbara's pregnancy. In February 1547, she gave birth to a son. Named John of Austria, the baby was taken from his mother almost immediately. Instead, his royal father had decided that he ought to be raised in Spain, while Barbara was married off to Hieronymus Kegel. She had three further children with her husband, but only met her son by the emperor once - in 1576. John was her greatest legacy, and went on to excel in the military service of his half-brother, Philip II of Spain, at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571.

*Babs bagged a king with a song
But things went suddenly wrong
She gave him a lad
And he was ever so glad
But thought it was time she moved on*



7

Karin Mansdotter

Royal lover: Eric XIV of Sweden
Years as mistress: 1565-77

Openly paraded at court as the king's mistress, Karin was given all the trappings a royal mistress could expect: costly clothes, a lavish suite of apartments at court and a host of servants. Eric XIV had had various mistresses, but so infatuated was he with Karin that she became his sole official mistress. Moreover, in 1567, Eric went one step further and married his mistress in secret. The following year the couple married again in a public ceremony: Karin was now queen of Sweden. Her husband, however, was mentally unstable, and shortly after their second wedding Eric was overthrown by his own brothers. His family were imprisoned, and though Karin was initially allowed to remain with her husband, the births of two children meant that the couple were eventually separated. Karin was sent to Finland, where she remained under arrest until the death of her husband in 1577. She spent the rest of her life living quietly in a royal estate.

*He married her twice so it's true
That he loved her and everyone knew
But alas for the queen
Life wasn't a dream
And she was driven to Finland to stew*



Nell Gwynn

Royal lover: Charles II of England Years as mistress: 1668-85



*Nell once made bread on the stage
But played the star role of her age
Kept by the king
With no title or ring
A pet in a sumptuous cage*

Nell's position as a royal mistress was life-changing. The most famous of Charles II's mistresses was of humble origin, rising from orange seller to actress, and then to royal mistress. Neither was Charles the first of her lovers, as Nell had been previously involved with both Charles Hart and Charles Sackville. Nell was popular, and managed to retain the king's love through her wit and sense of humour; she was referred to as "pretty, witty Nell".

She was utterly faithful to Charles, and in return for her services Nell was rewarded with a town house on Pall Mall, and was comfortably provided for. Unlike several of the king's other mistresses, however, Nell was given no title. Nevertheless, she lived in luxury and had two sons by the king, one of whom became Duke of St Albans. At the time of Charles's death, Bishop Burnet claimed that the king had urged his successor to, "Let not poor Nelly starve."



*Mary went a bit too far
In knocking boots with a tsar
She lied to him
And for her sin
Her severed head rose like a star*

Ascot by birth, Mary emigrated to Russia where she joined the household of the Empress Catherine in 1713. It was here that she caught the eye of Catherine's husband, Peter the Great, but their love affair was destined to end dramatically. Peter was not Mary's only lover, and she was simultaneously conducting an affair with Ivan Mikhailovich Orlov. However, she was devastated when she learned that Ivan was also the lover of another of Peter's mistresses, Avdotya Chernysheva. Desperate to try and win back his affection, Mary presented Ivan with a number of costly gifts that she had stolen from

her royal mistress. When Mary's rooms were searched in 1717, several of Catherine's belongings were discovered there, and Mary was arrested. To make matters worse, it came to light that she had not only had an abortion, but that she had also given birth in secret to a baby that she had proceeded to drown. In November 1718, Mary was found guilty of theft, abortion and infanticide, and was sentenced to death by her royal lover. On 14 March 1719, Mary was beheaded by sword. In a last bitter encounter, Peter raised her head to the assembled crowd, kissed it and then threw it to the ground.



Henrietta Howard

Royal lover: George II of England Years as mistress: 1723-34



*Her royal tryst was all so clean
With the blessing of the queen
Without a rival
Her survival
Was guaranteed, her life serene*

Travelling to Hanover, Henrietta planned to ingratiate herself with the future George I. There, she met and became close to his son, the future George II. When he journeyed with his wife, Caroline of Ansbach, to England to take up his place in his father's court, Henrietta obtained a position in Caroline's household as a woman of the bedchamber. Her husband was also given a place at court, and Henrietta quickly became popular as she was attractive and renowned for her wit. Although George was deeply

in love with Caroline, he felt duty bound to take a mistress, and selected Henrietta with his wife's full knowledge and approval. Unlike some other royal mistresses, Henrietta was unassuming, and did not crave power and influence. She continued to serve in Caroline's household, and was rewarded with an increase in her wages and protection from her abusive husband. A more tangible reminder of their affair survives in the form of Marble Hill House, the splendid Twickenham home George built for his obliging mistress.

14 Notorious Royal Mistresses

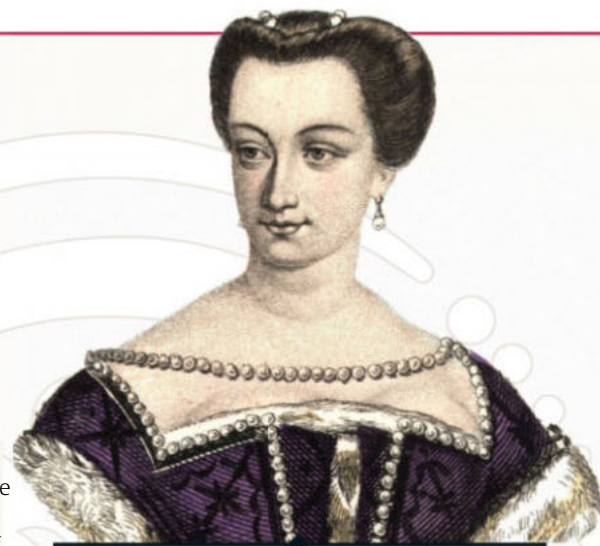
11

Diane de Poitiers

Royal lover: Henry II of France Years as mistress: 1534-59

Henri and Diane's relationship began in Henri's youth. As he grew, so too did his devotion to the enchantingly beautiful and intelligent Diane, and it was a love that would endure until the end of his life. In 1533, Henri was married to Catherine de Medici, a match for which he had little taste. It was Diane, realising his need to sire male heirs, who encouraged Henri to visit his wife's bedchamber, and though the marriage was unsuccessful in

personal terms, it did produce ten children. Diane wielded great influence over her royal lover, and enjoyed the privileges that came with the role of mistress. She was created Duchess d'Etampes and given several important royal manors, but earned the enmity of Queen Catherine. When Henri died in a jousting accident in 1559, the opportunity for revenge presented itself. Diane's power immediately fell away, and she was forced to spend the remainder of her life away from court.



*Diane was surprisingly fair
She saw Henri needed an heir
So she sent him to mate
With the wife he did hate
And he sired ten kids in her lair*



12

Lillie Langtree

Royal lover: Edward VII of England Years as mistress: 1877-80

*Eddie caused sweet Lillie glee
In their love nest by the sea
But then it ended
So she befriended
The prince of another country*

A famous beauty and successful actress, it was not long before Lillie caught Edward's eye. He asked to be seated next to her at a dinner party on 24 May 1877 and became infatuated with her. Edward was, at this time, prince of Wales, and a married father to six children. Lillie was also married, her husband being Edward Langtry, and her relationship with the prince was not the first of her extra-marital affairs. Edward was generous to his mistress, spending vast amounts of money on her, and building her a house in Bournemouth. Lillie was even accepted by Edward's wife, Alexandra.

The relationship, however, came to an end when French stage and film actress Sarah Bernhardt superseded Lillie in the prince's affections, but the two remained on good terms. Furthermore, it was not long before Lillie, too, moved on from the affair, and became embroiled with several others. She became pregnant by Prince Louis of Battenberg, and subsequently gave birth to a daughter. By this time she was estranged from her husband, and they eventually divorced. In 1899, she married Hugo Gerald de Bathe, a marriage of convenience. Lillie died in 1929 and was buried in Jersey.

Risks and rewards of being a royal mistress

Pros

LAVISH GIFTS

Gifts were a perk that came in a variety of forms and from an assortment of people: not only a mistress's royal lover, but also those who sought to bribe her to use her influence with the monarch for their benefit. Jewels and money were popular choices.



GRAND TITLES

If a mistress was favoured then she might be given a title. Charles II's mistresses, Barbara Villiers and Louise de Kérouaille, were created duchess of Cleveland and duchess of Portsmouth.



NEW PLACE

A new house was the ultimate sign of royal affection. Caroline Lacroix, the mistress of Leopold II of Belgium, was given the Villa Leopolda on the French Riviera by her lover.



FICKLE FORTUNES

The moment a woman became a mistress she was faced with competition from others, vying for her place. If the king became bored of her, she could be cast away at any time.



Cons

VENEREAL DISEASE

Kings often had more than one mistress, and women too could be promiscuous. This naturally meant that there was a risk of venereal disease. Charles II's mistress, Lucy Walter, probably died of this in 1658.



DEATH

Death in childbirth was always a possibility for a mistress who became pregnant by her royal lover. More chillingly, if she displeased or betrayed the king, the consequences could sometimes be fatal.





13

Empress Dowager Cixi

Royal lover: Xianfeng Emperor Years as mistress: 1852-61

In 1852, 16-year-old Cixi became one of many concubines of the Emperor Xianfeng. Among the concubines Cixi ranked relatively low – fifth rank – but in 1856 her position changed when she gave birth to a healthy son, Zaichun. Zaichun was Xianfeng's only surviving heir, and his birth significantly improved Cixi's standing at court. When Xianfeng died in 1861, Zaichun was only five years old, and Xianfeng had therefore provided for a regency council. However, this did not prevent Cixi from launching her own bid for power, and she successfully mounted a coup against the regents. Her intention was to exert power through her son, crowned Emperor Tongzhi. However, when Tongzhi died in 1875, Cixi was not ready to hand over the reins. Her

three-year-old nephew, Guangxu, succeeded, and in order to retain her position, Cixi adopted him. Though she retired for a brief time when Guangxu reached his majority, she soon forced her way back to the forefront, and there she remained until her death in 1908. Cixi was opposed to many of the reforms implemented by her nephew, and eventually had him placed under virtual house arrest. Cixi has acquired a reputation for cruelty, and she did not hesitate when it came to the removal of her enemies – by fair means or foul. She was suspected of having been responsible for the poisoning of her nephew, who died only a day before her, and this is certainly a possibility. What is certain is that by her death, Cixi had become one of the most powerful women in China.

*She wasn't the best of the crop
(And the Emperor had rather a lot)
But she gave him a son
So she basically won
And schemed her way to the top*



14

Madame de Pompadour

Royal lover: Louis XV of France
Years as mistress: 1745-64

Louis XV's official mistress became one of the most powerful women in 18th-century France. When friends introduced her at the royal court, it was not long before the king noticed her at a masked ball. Within a short space of time, Pompadour was in the king's bed, and she became his favourite mistress. She was given a luxurious apartment at the Palace of Versailles, where Louis frequently visited her by means of a secret staircase. The infatuated monarch even built the Petit Trianon in the grounds of Versailles to provide her with a peaceful retreat. More dangerously, Pompadour also became Louis's adviser, and though their sexual relationship ceased in the 1750s, she retained influence over the king for the rest of her life. She even provided Louis with replacement mistresses, ensuring they would pose no threat to herself. Pompadour had varied cultural interests, and under her auspices the Sevres porcelain factory was established. When Pompadour died of tuberculosis on 15 April 1764, Louis mourned the loss of his former lover and friend greatly.

*She met his majesty at the ball
And answered to his every call
She supported art
And broke his heart
When her coffin dropped into a hole*

Driven into the Danube

Some of the retreating French forces were driven into the waters of the great River Danube as panic ensued among the men and horses. The French commander at the village of Blenheim, Marquis de Clérambault, actually drowned in the river. While allied losses totalled 12,000 killed and wounded, French and Bavarian casualties were more than 50 per cent, with 18,000 killed and 13,000 wounded.

Cavalry charge

At the height of the Battle of Blenheim, infantry under John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, advanced against the weakened centre of Marshal Tallard's French line. The Grand Alliance thwarted French and Bavarian attempts to capture Vienna following Marlborough's long march to the battlefield - just days before the encounter took place.

Bringing support forward

English officers and cavalry surged forward to support the infantry as the attackers overwhelmed the thin centre of the French line late in the afternoon of 13 August 1704. Critical reserves had been directed towards the village of Blenheim and were unavailable to Marshal Tallard when the decisive assault began.

Heart of the action

Desperate fighting raged in the village of Blenheim, where English troops mounted repeated assaults during the day. This was in preparation for Marlborough's decisive attack on the French centre after crossing the marshy Nebel. The English effort at the village succeeded in drawing crucial French reserves away from the scene.



French flight

A major French counterattack against the threat to the centre of their line was beaten back. Their formation began to disintegrate and the cavalry fled in disarray. French officers' efforts to regroup were frustrated and the defenders of the village of Blenheim were cut off and forced to surrender.



BATTLE OF BLENHEIM

BLenheim, BAVARIA, 13 AUGUST 1704

Written by Michael Haskew

The French army had not tasted defeat for half a century, but a single day along the banks of the great River Danube in Bavaria shifted the balance of power in Europe for generations.

The Battle of Blenheim was a turning point in the War of the Spanish Succession as the army of the Grand Alliance - led by John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, and Prince Eugene of Savoy - defeated the army of France and Bavaria, under Marshal Camille d'Hustou, duc de Tallard, and Maximilian II Emanuel, elector of Bavaria.

The primary battlefield developed in southern Germany as Tallard threatened Vienna, the capital of the Holy Roman Empire. In response, Marlborough executed a brilliant campaign of manoeuvre and deception, marching from the Spanish Netherlands to Bavaria, covering almost 500 kilometres in 35 days, his army of primarily English and Dutch troops growing to 50,000 along the way.

When Marlborough reached the field in early August, he found his enemy, 56,000 strong, holding formidable positions anchored on the Danube, the village of Blenheim to its right. Ahead of the French front, a small stream, the Nebel, flowed. Marlborough would make his main assault against the enemy centre, crossing the Nebel to attack after forces under Lieutenant General John Cutts engaged the enemy at Blenheim and Prince Eugene attacked the opposite flank. When the French transferred troops to meet either threat, their centre might weaken, allowing Marlborough to crash through.

Sometime after noon, the Battle of Blenheim commenced as Cutts mounted desperate assaults

on the village, enduring heavy artillery fire, concentrated musketry and a slashing counterattack by elite French cavalry. Cutts continued to hammer at Blenheim, causing the local French commander, Lieutenant General Marquis de Clérambault, to call forward 11 reinforcing infantry battalions. The manoeuvre deprived Tallard of his reserves at a critical moment. Meanwhile, Prince Eugene kept the Bavarians occupied at the opposite end of the line.

Sensing his opportunity, Marlborough began crossing the marshy Nebel on pontoon bridges. French artillery hammered the advance, and a pivotal cavalry engagement erupted near the village of Blenheim. Gendarmes charged furiously at Marlborough's dragoons - only to be flanked and routed. Tallard was shocked at the setback and began to despair. A French infantry attack among the farm buildings at Oberglau nearly drove a wedge between Marlborough and Prince Eugene. Although hard-pressed, the prince answered Marlborough's call for support, sending his Imperial Cuirassiers.

By 5pm, Marlborough had crossed the Nebel in force. English infantrymen poured withering volleys into French lines and fended off enemy cavalry with bayonets. Two lines of English cavalry thundered forward, and Tallard's defence disintegrated. The French fled. Those troops defending Blenheim were forced to surrender. Tallard was captured.

French and Bavarian casualties were greater than 50 per cent with 18,000 killed and 13,000 wounded. Marlborough's army lost 4,500 dead and 7,500 wounded. Vienna was no longer in peril, and the French bid to dominate the continent was crushed.

Greatest Battles



Grand Alliance Army

INFANTRY 35,000
CAVALRY 17,000
CANNON 66



JOHN CHURCHILL, 1ST DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH

LEADER

The duke's military career spanned the reigns of five English monarchs, and he earned lasting fame at the Battle of Blenheim.

Strengths Marlborough was a superb organiser, brilliant strategist and consensus builder.

Weakness The duke once turned against his benefactor, King James II.



SCOTS REGIMENT OF FOOT

KEY UNIT

The regiment was nicknamed 'The Duke of Marlborough's Own' in recognition of its service during the War of Spanish Succession.

Strengths Tradition and experience made the regiment dependable.

Weakness Infantry units were vulnerable to artillery fire and cavalry attack.



DOGLOCK MUSKET

KEY WEAPON

With a half-cock catch called the 'dog', the doglock musket was in widespread use among the armies of the early-18th century.

Strengths Serving as a safety, the dog prevented premature firing while loading.

Weakness A laborious loading process limited the rate of fire.

02 French cavalry counter-charge

With sabres drawn, French Gendarmes – elite cavalrymen – charge into the reeling English ranks. Slashing and stabbing at the enemy infantrymen, the French take a fearful toll before the steady muskets of a Hessian brigade stop their onslaught, mowing down men and horses in a flash and compelling a swift retreat. The 21st Scots Battalion loses its colours in the temporary retreat, but the standard is recovered behind the stream of Hessian musketry.

01 The battle joined

Just after noon on 13 August 1704, English, Hessian and Hanoverian infantry brigades under the command of Lieutenant General John Cutts, nicknamed 'Salamander' because he relishes intense combat, assault the French defenders of Blenheim. The French fortify closely packed houses in the village and riddle the attackers with musket fire. Accurate artillery continually rakes the advancing English infantry, who advance, falter, regroup and renew the effort.



03 Cutts and glory

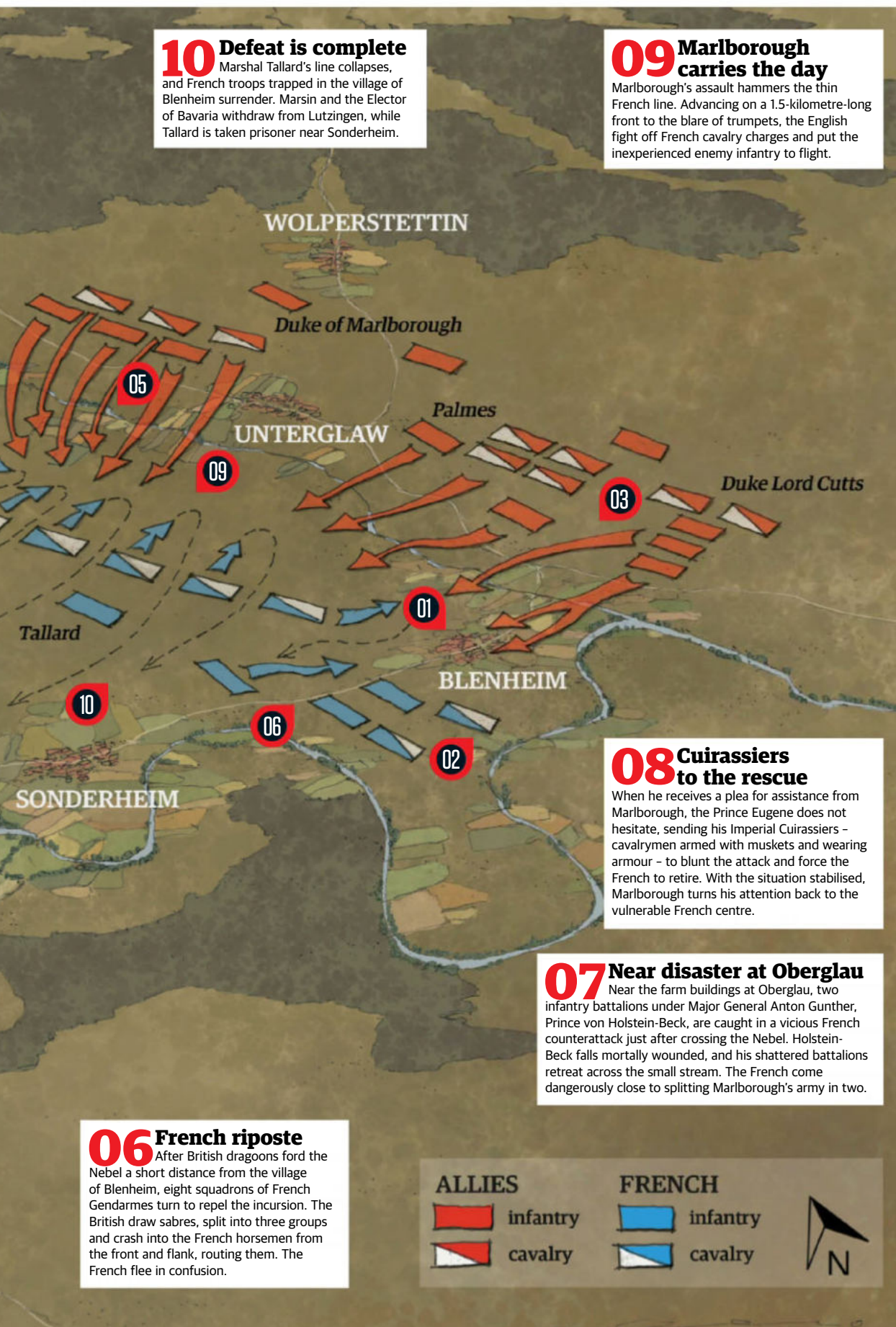
Lieutenant General Cutts displays tremendous courage, forms his remaining troops, and rushes again towards the cluster of houses in Blenheim. The English soldiers are relentless. However, they cannot dislodge the defenders, falling in great heaps before the strong French positions. The French commander, Lieutenant General Francois, marquis de Clérambault, becomes distraught and orders 11 battalions from the reserves into the fight at Blenheim. These troop movements leave the French centre dangerously unsupported.

04 Stalemate on the left

Prince Eugene of Savoy commands 16,000 troops locked in desperate combat with approximately 23,000 French and Bavarian soldiers under the Elector of Bavaria and Marshal Ferdinand de Marsin defending the left flank of the French army near the town of Lutzingen. The prince's soldiers must contend with rocky outcroppings, ravines and thick underbrush, but manage to maintain their grip on the enemy, actually gaining a bit of ground by mid-afternoon.

05 Across the Nebel

As the afternoon wears on, the Duke of Marlborough's force begins crossing the Nebel on pontoon bridges. Although they endure tremendous artillery and musket fire, approximately 15,000 foot soldiers and 8,000 horsemen ascend the opposite bank. Mounted on a striking charger, the duke personally leads his men forward against the hard-pressed French centre, held by only 60 squadrons of cavalry and nine battalions of infantry that have never been tested in battle.



10 Defeat is complete

Marshal Tallard's line collapses, and French troops trapped in the village of Blenheim surrender. Marsin and the Elector of Bavaria withdraw from Lutzingen, while Tallard is taken prisoner near Sonderheim.

09 Marlborough carries the day

Marlborough's assault hammers the thin French line. Advancing on a 1.5-kilometre-long front to the blare of trumpets, the English fight off French cavalry charges and put the inexperienced enemy infantry to flight.

08 Cuirassiers to the rescue

When he receives a plea for assistance from Marlborough, the Prince Eugene does not hesitate, sending his Imperial Cuirassiers – cavalrymen armed with muskets and wearing armour – to blunt the attack and force the French to retire. With the situation stabilised, Marlborough turns his attention back to the vulnerable French centre.

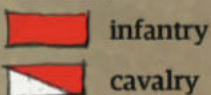
07 Near disaster at Oberglau

Near the farm buildings at Oberglau, two infantry battalions under Major General Anton Gunther, Prince von Holstein-Beck, are caught in a vicious French counterattack just after crossing the Nebel. Holstein-Beck falls mortally wounded, and his shattered battalions retreat across the small stream. The French come dangerously close to splitting Marlborough's army in two.

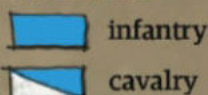
06 French riposte

After British dragoons ford the Nebel a short distance from the village of Blenheim, eight squadrons of French Gendarmes turn to repel the incursion. The British draw sabres, split into three groups and crash into the French horsemen from the front and flank, routing them. The French flee in confusion.

ALLIES



FRENCH



French-Bavarian Army

INFANTRY 36,000
CAVALRY 20,000
CANNON 90



CAMILLE D'HUSTON, DUC DE TALLARD

LEADER

A career soldier, Tallard was captured at Blenheim and imprisoned in England for seven years.

Strengths Underestimated as a tactician, Tallard won several battlefield victories.

Weakness Losing control of the reserve infantry at Blenheim proved Tallard's downfall.



GENDARMERIE (CAVALRY)

KEY UNIT

The most famous and revered units of French cavalry at Blenheim.

Strengths Esprit de Corps and experience marked French cavalry early in the war.

Weakness Overconfidence led the French horsemen to believe they were virtually invincible.




ARTILLERY

KEY WEAPON

French artillery fired accurately on English formations at Blenheim, inflicting many of the casualties absorbed by the Duke of Marlborough's army.

Strengths A single shot could inflict tremendous casualties and disrupt entire formations.

Weakness Unprotected, artillerymen were vulnerable to musket fire and to being overrun.



Towards the end,
Elvis suffered from
high blood pressure,
liver damage, an
enlarged colon as
well as glaucoma

THE END OF ELVIS

When the rock and roll star emerged from the US army, he would face a foe closer to home, one that would destroy his self-respect, morals, fanbase and, eventually, his life: Hollywood

Written by Frances White

Fears were rife among Elvis Presley's management team when he joined the US Army in 1958. His career was at an all-time high - he had completely revolutionised the world of popular music, and encouraged a cultural shift that ignited the biggest pop craze since the days of Frank Sinatra. Elvis hadn't just broken records, he had smashed them by speaking to a disenchanted and broken young generation. However, the king of rock and roll firmly believed his stint in the military would be his undoing. He was wrong.

Elvis's service in the army didn't actually affect his career at all. Although he was determined to be treated like a normal soldier, while he was stationed in Germany, his producers put out a stream of unreleased material to keep the brand alive and well. Despite recording only five tracks between induction and discharge, he had ten top 40 hits,

and an album of old material entitled *Elvis' Golden Records* even hit number three on the LP chart. Indeed, when Elvis was honourably discharged and returned to the United States on 2 March 1960, his train was mobbed the entire journey, and to prevent his adoring fans from rioting, the singer agreed to appear at scheduled stops along the way. It was the start of 1960, and teenagers everywhere rejoiced that their hero, the symbol of their youth and rebellion, had emerged from the army, and Elvis himself felt ready to retake the world. Everybody wanted him to succeed, and none more so than Elvis himself.

Since the days when he had sat, ten years old, learning how to play the guitar from his uncles, Elvis had an aspiration: he longed to be like his two biggest heroes - Marlon Brando and, most of all, James Dean. Dean, like Elvis, had made the transition from being a performer to an incredibly

The end of Elvis

successful and respected actor. Elvis longed to give the same dramatic and moving performances as these stars of the silver screen, and although he was thankful for his music career, his heart belonged in film. His management thought the same and believed that if Elvis was going to find longevity, it would be in Hollywood.

He had already released four films prior to his army stint: *Love Me Tender*, *Loving You*, *Jailhouse Rock* and *King Creole*. All had brought in considerable profits, and though the first three were slammed by critics, Elvis's performance in *King Creole* demonstrated real potential, and he was ready to prove he belonged with the greats.

For his comeback movie, Elvis chose a tribute to his army brothers, a chirpy musical-comedy called *GI Blues*. He starred as a somewhat stripped-back version of himself, with shaved sideburns, dancing but without those signature hip shakes, and singing but without the rock and roll edge that had made him famous. In *GI Blues*, Elvis had been made family friendly. Far removed from the edgy, rebellious criminal he had played in *Jailhouse Rock*, now he was singing wholesomely to an adorable set of twins. Although this wasn't the meaty acting Presley aspired to, he reasoned that Brando too had done a musical early in his career, and it would be a bridge to more serious roles. Despite mixed reviews, the film did extremely well, peaking at number two in the box office and earning a modern-day equivalent of around \$30 million.

Now Elvis had got his family-friendly

money-spinner out of the way he decided to focus on really stretching his acting talents with some 'serious' movies. This came in the form of *Flaming Star* and *Wild In The Country*. *Flaming Star* was a straight drama directed by Don Siegel and starred Elvis as a half native-American at the centre of a race war. Despite urges for Elvis to sing four songs in the movie, one while mounted on a trusty steed, he stood by his convictions and refused to sing them all, and the film was all the better for it. In *Flaming Star*, Elvis delivered a knock-out performance, impressing Siegel, who proclaimed, "God, that boy had potential."

However, what really mattered in the business

wasn't a good performance but the money to be made, and both of the movies, by comparison to his other films, were a disaster. *Wild In The Country* actually lost

money. Elvis's outspoken and eccentric manager, Tom Parker, also known as 'the Colonel', was not happy, and when Elvis was offered a gritty role in Robert Mitchum's *Thunder Road*, he was forbidden from taking it by the Colonel. The role that could have changed the entire focus of Elvis's career slipped through his fingers.

The Colonel had other plans for Elvis's film career, ones that would guarantee big bucks. His next film, *Blue Hawaii*, featured singing, dancing, glitzy costumes, scantily clad girls, bright colours and exotic locations. The Colonel knew what the public wanted from Elvis, and it was a tremendous hit, grossing \$4.7 million in 1962 alone. It was a colossal success. The public had spoken - they didn't want a gritty, serious Elvis, they wanted all-singing, all-dancing fun and frivolity in the sun.

The success of *Blue Hawaii* laid the blueprint for all future Elvis films, and, with few exceptions, they all featured very similar themes - Elvis singing terrible songs to doe-eyed, big-breasted women in bikinis, fighting and then finally getting the girl. He starred



in critically panned but huge box office successes such as *Tickle Me*, *Girls! Girls! Girls!* and *Harum Scarum*. This must have been a humiliating and degrading experience for the man who respected and aspired to such greats as Brando and Dean, yet Elvis still appeared in film after film. Many today wonder why such a powerful star put up with appearing in such substandard flicks, but Elvis had tried things his way and failed. He likely thought it best to just do what he was told. After all, starring in bad movies was better than starring in no movies at all.

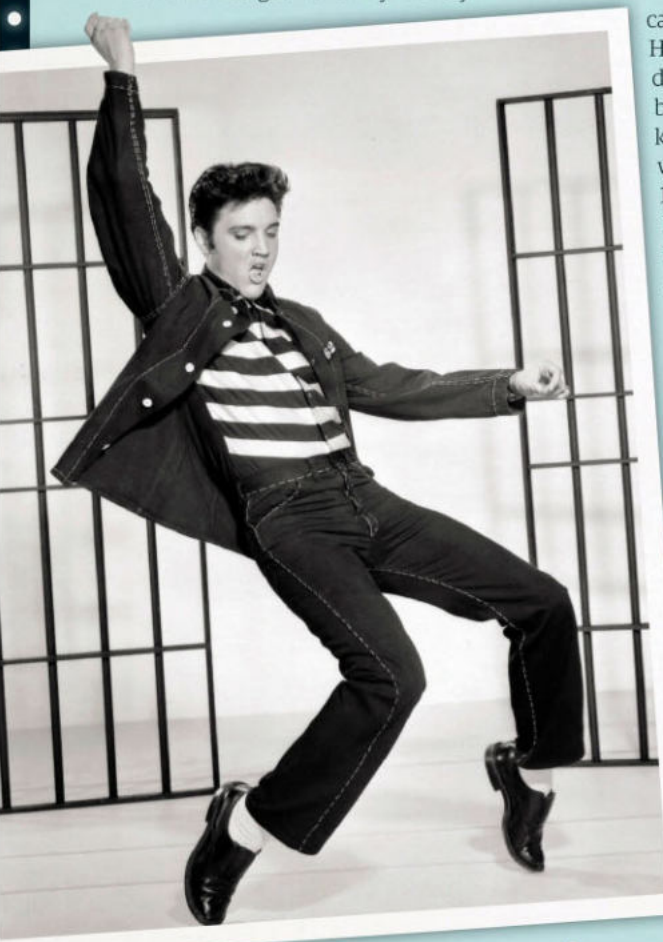
Behind the scenes, Elvis had found a way to cope with his professional disappointment: abusing

prescription drugs to get him through one humiliating act to the next. In his free time, he held wild parties with literally hundreds of girls, many of them

only teenagers, fulfilling his every whim and fantasy, while he over-ate and indulged himself in every excess his massive wealth bought him. Elvis and his entourage were reported to have parties seven days a week, and as his film career was so unfulfilling, this party-hard, pill-popping, indulgent lifestyle became the focus of his life.

Elvis was a good actor but the non-stop party lifestyle soon caught up with him on film - he appeared stiff and awkward, his skin looked waxy and synthetic, his hair oily and his once-famous and beloved features were rapidly changing. The man who had brought sex appeal to Middle America's television screens had been castrated by Hollywood, and even his most dedicated fans began to notice the change. It was an inescapable cycle: the more hollow films he made, the more depressed Elvis became, and then the more unhealthy he became. The material in the movies was so bad Presley remarked that he couldn't sing it. The man who had rocked the foundations of the music industry was forced to warble his way through *Rock-A-Hula Baby* and


The teenage rebel had become a stretched caricature of himself, and within the industry itself he was regarded as a joke, a gimmick




Left: *Jailhouse Rock* was regarded as scandalous as Presley portrayed a criminal

At the height of his career Elvis was a sex symbol, not just for women but for men too



Blue Hawaii began a string of Elvis films to be shot in the country



FIT FOR A KING

Elvis wasn't only a record-breaking performer, but also a fashion icon to the American youth

BEFORE FAME 1954



ALOHA FROM HAWAII 1973

LAS VEGAS 1972

COMEBACK 1968

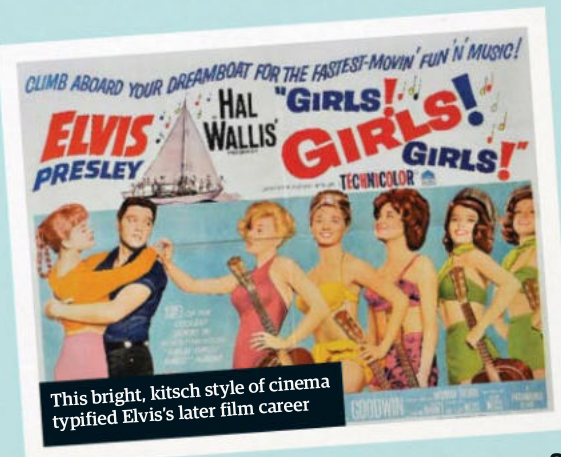
WEDDING 1967

ARMY DAYS 1958

JAILHOUSE ROCK 1957

LOVE ME TENDER 1956

THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW 1956



This bright, kitsch style of cinema typified Elvis's later film career

The end of Elvis

The Daily Standard

21 December 1970

ELVIS THE UNDERCOVER DEA AGENT?

MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SINGER AND THE
PRESIDENT SPARK RUMOURS

It has been revealed that Elvis Presley, after writing a letter to president Nixon, has been awarded a DEA badge. The singer believed that by bearing it he could travel to any country with any number of drugs and

handguns. Although Presley reportedly told Nixon, "I will be here for as long as it takes to get the credentials of a federal agent," sadly for the singer, the badge is only honorary, and cannot be used officially.

Daily
Herald

30 March 1975

PILING ON THE POUNDS

ELVIS STUFFS HIMSELF SILLY ON
EXCESSIVE CULINARY DELIGHTS



Fans have noticed the recent physical changes in the king of rock and roll, Elvis Presley. The once-slim dreamboat has begun to spill out of his jumpsuits and the reason is, reportedly, a fondness for sandwiches. According to sources, the king is particularly fond of fool's gold loaf, which contains a pound of bacon, peanut butter and jelly.

Daily
News

30 August 1977

ELVIS'S BODY IS A FAKE!

THE KING LIVES ON



After the shocking announcement of the death of the king of rock and roll, rumours are flying that Presley's death was a cover up. It is believed that the body in the coffin was

simply a wax imitation, while the real Elvis has been bundled away into a witness-protection programme. Presley's family and fiancée deny the rumours.

No Room To Rumba In A Sports Car, The teenage rebel had become a stretched caricature of himself, and within the industry itself he was regarded as a joke, a gimmick, a quick buck. The people Elvis respected didn't respect him, and worst of all, he didn't respect himself either.

Elvis had lost touch with his fans and slowly his 'sure-fire' cinematic recipe for success began to let him down. Even the Colonel had to acknowledge the near-disaster that was his 1967 movie *Clambake*, starring Elvis as a wealthy man masquerading as a beach ski-instructor alongside his co-star Flipper the dolphin. The film made \$1.6 million but had cost \$1.4 million to make. During filming, high on pills, Elvis had fallen, cracking his head on a bathtub, and had to be revived by a doctor with an oxygen machine. His career, his reputation and now his life were all crumbling around him.

The Colonel wasn't an idiot, and in an effort to save some semblance of his top-billing star he encouraged Elvis to return to his first success - television appearances. He intended Elvis to appear in a holiday special entitled *Elvis And The Wonderful World Of Christmas*, featuring the

king in a tuxedo, crooning Christmas hits while elves danced around him. Steve Binder, the show's producer, had very different ideas. In an effort to shock Elvis into understanding how his fame had dwindled, he walked with the singer down Sunset Boulevard, and rather than being mobbed, not a single person recognised the king of rock and roll. For once, Elvis rebelled against his manager and agreed with Binder: he was done doing as he was told, and together Elvis and Binder created a show that harked back to the star's roots, singing some of his classics in front of a live audience. The rebel was back and the show was a hit.

Elvis used his success to kick-start a new career as a Las Vegas performer, but, unfortunately, the damage had already been done. He continued to overdose on prescription medication, was barely recognisable in his bulging jumpsuits and struggled to sing the songs that had catapulted him into the limelight. He weakly gripped onto the microphone stand and shocked the huge audiences that paid to see him. His guitarist, John Wilkinson, said, "He was all gut. He was slurring. He was so f***** up... It was obvious he was drugged. It was obvious

Elvis's comeback show was NBC's highest rated that season



there was something terribly wrong with his body. It was so bad the words to the songs were barely intelligible... I remember crying. He could barely get through the introductions."

The king had wandered too far down the path of self-destruction to be saved by one success. His marriage ended in divorce, and in 1973 he overdosed on barbiturates twice, the first incident leaving him in a coma for three days. After three of his bodyguards were unceremoniously fired in July 1976 they struck back with the book *Elvis: What Happened?*, finally revealing what the entire world suspected - Elvis, the man who had for most of his career been fiercely anti-drugs, was addicted to them. Elvis was devastated. He had let his rock and roll persona be scrubbed squeaky clean in his movies, but now even that had been destroyed, and there was nothing left but an overweight and overpaid has-been singer.

Just two weeks after the book was published, Elvis was found unresponsive on the floor of his bathroom. He was later pronounced dead at Baptist Memorial Hospital. Fans around the world mourned the man who had revolutionised a generation, and most chose to ignore his ill-fated film career. John Lennon, a man who had been inspired by Elvis, summed up many of the nation's feelings towards the king when he commented, "He [Elvis] died the day he went into the army."

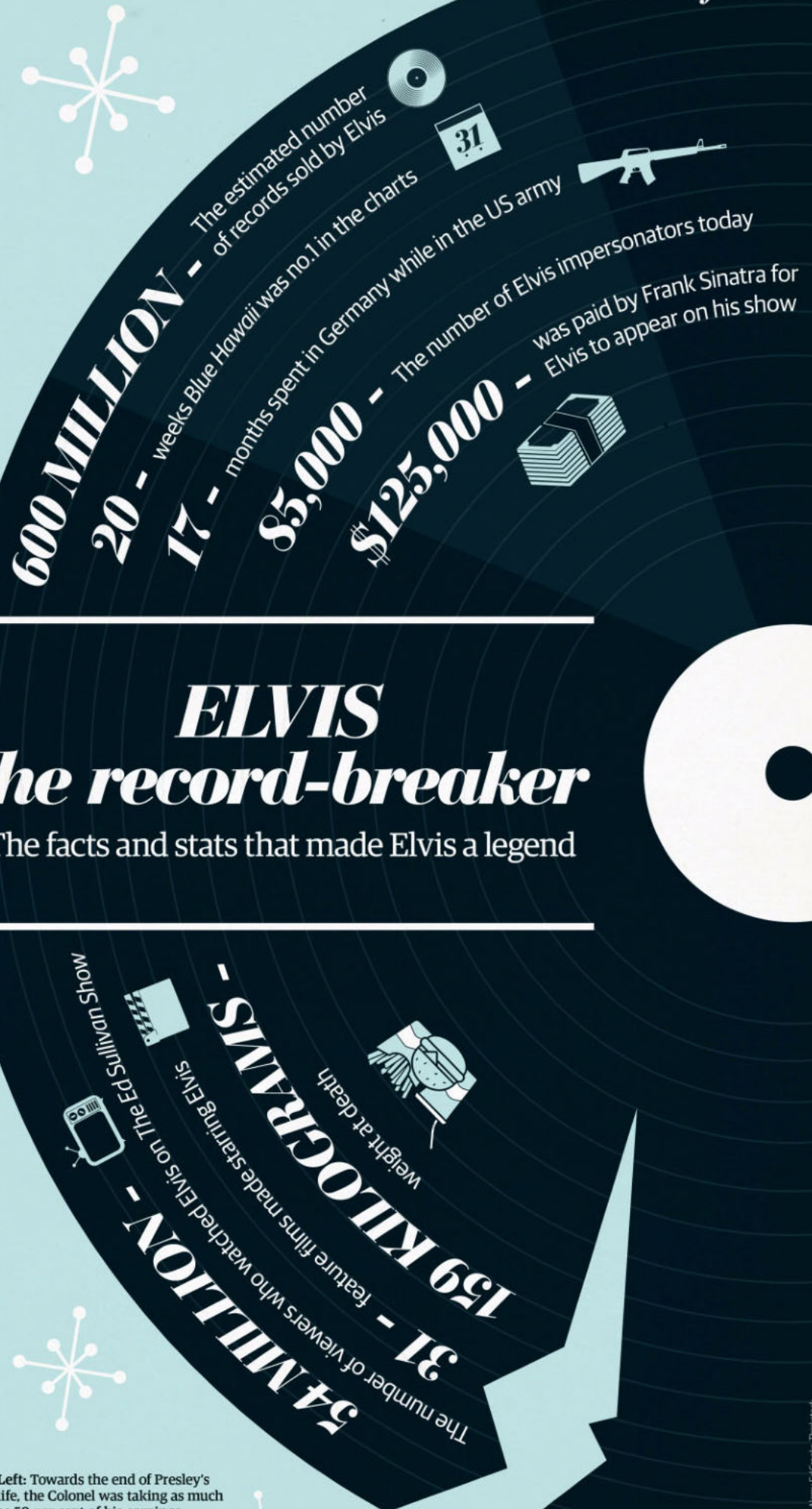


Left: Towards the end of Presley's life, the Colonel was taking as much as 50 per cent of his earnings

ELVIS

the record-breaker

The facts and stats that made Elvis a legend



What if... Louis XVI had survived the Revolution?

Explore what could have happened if the royal family
had succeeded in their attempt to flee Paris

Written by Catherine Curzon

In June 1791, Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette and their children fled Paris by night as the flames of revolution flared at the very door of the Tuileries Palace. Their destination was Montmédy, where royalist officers waited to rally to the king's call. However, the escape attempt - the Flight to Varennes - failed, and arguably sealed the fate of the royal family. Delayed by the king's indecision and anxiety, the plan had been left too late. Louis was recognised by postmaster Jean-Baptiste Drouet and, on their arrival in Varennes, the family members were arrested and returned to Paris to meet their gruesome fate.

Imagine a world then, where Drouet doesn't recognise the king, and the royals make good their audacious escape, meeting those faithful soldiers who were waiting to serve them in Montmédy. Here, sheltered by loyalists and safe from persecution, the king galvanises his position and summons soldiers loyal to his cause. Those who would one day join the *Armée des Émigrés* - counter-revolutionary armies raised outside of France - travel to Montmédy and declare themselves the servants of the king.

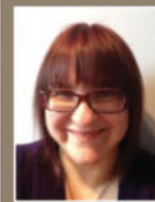
From Austria, the birthplace of Marie Antoinette, comes an offer of shelter but no military support. Seeking to secure his future as the king of France and with no intention of establishing a court-in-exile, Louis rejects the offer. Instead he elects to remain in Montmédy with the counter-revolutionary forces, planning his next move to retake France.

In response to the king's successful escape, the Legislative Assembly declares the monarch deposed. All too aware of the king's support outside major cities, the Assembly musters its military forces, readying them to meet the oncoming counter attack. The fight back begins in 1793 when the uprising in the Vendée provides the flashpoint. With republican forces focused on the region, the time is right for an invasion of the king's forces, marching from Montmédy. Despite Louis's pleas for help, the forces of the Holy Roman Empire are not at his side, occupied instead with holding back Russian expansion.

Plunged into civil war, republicans and monarchists battle as they had in England a century before. Yet the king proves a powerful

figurehead for his cause and, with revolutionary support dwindling outside the capital, the tide slowly turns in his favour. The battles are long, bloody and hard-fought but, with ambition and in-fighting eating away at the republican leaders, it is the loyalists who ultimately claim the victory.

Those revolutionary leaders who have survived are swiftly tried and sentenced to death, with the actions of the people of the Vendée lauded as the touchpaper that sparked the eventual restoration. Triumphant, though no more skilled a politician than he ever was, Louis surrounds himself with trusted advisers including an ambitious soldier named Napoleon Bonaparte. In the years that follow, Bonaparte assumes a reputation as the power behind the throne. He remains at the side of the king and his successor, Louis XVII, becoming lauded as one of the most powerful politicians the French monarchy has ever seen.



CATHERINE CURZON

A historian in the field of 18th-century royalty, Catherine Curzon is author of *Life in The Georgian Court*. She has spoken at venues including the Royal Pavilion, Dr Johnson's House and Lichfield Guildhall. Catherine holds a master's degree in Film Studies and, when not dodging the furies of the guillotine, she writes fiction set deep in the underbelly of Georgian Britain. Her debut novel, *The Crown Spire*, is out now.

"Plunged into civil war, republicans and monarchists battle as they had in England a century before"

How would it be different?

Marriage of Napoleon

and Marie Thérèse of France

With his marriage to the daughter of Louis XVI, Napoleon cements his place at the heart of the house of Bourbon. The marriage remains childless.

1800

Marriage of Louis XVII and

Catherine Pavlovna of Russia

Napoleon brokers the marriage of Louis XVII and Catherine Pavlovna of Russia, cementing a powerful alliance between Russia and France, leaving Austria sandwiched between the two.

1800

Death of Louis XVI

and accession of Louis XVII

Exhausted by revolution and war, Louis XVI dies. Napoleon becomes a second father to the young Louis XVII, wielding enormous influence over the new king.

1808

The Battle of Vienna

The Holy Roman Empire faces the threat of Russia and France head-on when their forces march on Vienna. Emperor Francis II flees for Scandinavia and the Holy Roman Empire collapses.

1811

What if... LOUIS XVI HAD LIVED?



Louis XVII becomes increasingly dependant on Napoleon for political advice

The Franco-Russian struggle for power

Alexander I of Russia refuses to allow the total decimation of the Austrian Empire and counsels Louis to be cautious. With the young king deaf to his warnings, Russia leads the call for Napoleon's dismissal.

1812

Napoleon's influence diminishes

With Louis XVII as timid as his father and fearing a repeat of the revolution, and without official regent powers, Napoleon is unable to establish the French Empire or take any decisive action.

1814

The threat to France

With Napoleon unable to flex his military muscles and hobbled by Louis's fear of upsetting the populace, foreign powers threaten to form an anti-French coalition unless the powerful politician is removed.

1815

Napoleon retires

Napoleon grudgingly agrees to retire after more than two decades. History will judge him as a great commander-in-waiting who was prevented from leading France to enormous territorial gains by a timid, ill-prepared king who had seen too much bloodshed to risk a second revolution.

1816



DISCOVERING THE AMERICAN WEST

They ventured across the country through unknown terrain,
facing danger and discovery at every turn. This is the
journey of Lewis and Clark

Written by Jonathan Hatfull

When the Revolutionary war ended in 1783, the founding fathers had grand ideals of what the vast continent had to offer, but little notion of its sprawling landscape and what lived there. It was an incredible wilderness full of possibilities and dangers, from which Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had no guarantee of a safe return.

The shape of the young American nation would change drastically when Napoleon Bonaparte offered to sell the French territory of Louisiana, a colossal area of 2,144,500 square kilometres that would double the size of the USA. President Thomas Jefferson worked quickly to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase for \$15 million in 1803, and he knew exactly what he wanted from it. He was desperate to know if there was a Northwest Passage that would connect the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean, thus greatly increasing trading possibilities,

and he had secretly asked Congress to approve and fund the expedition six months before the purchase was officially announced.

The president already had the perfect leader for the expedition. Jefferson's secretary, Meriwether Lewis, was a military veteran in excellent physical shape with a keen interest in the study of wildlife, and his loyalty and dedication were unquestionable. Lewis immediately began to prepare, taking lessons in navigation and absorbing every piece of available information about the geography and people of the region. However, even with all his study, he knew there would be myriad surprises ahead.

Lewis invited his former commanding officer, William Clark, to join him as co-captain, a move that partly stemmed from the diplomatic aspect of the voyage. They would be the ones to convey to the many Native American tribes on their way westward that they were now living under new



LEWIS AND CLARK

masters - a difficult conversation they hoped would be smoothed over with gifts, including a specially minted coin and some demonstrations of superior firepower. Clark's experience as a soldier and frontiersman combined with Lewis's strong leadership and diplomacy made them the perfect match, and he readily agreed.

Lewis sailed the newly constructed narrowboat from Pittsburgh down the Ohio River, and he met with Clark near Louisville, Kentucky, before setting up their winter training camp on Wood River. There would be 33 core members of the Corps of Discovery, which would finally set out on 14 May 1804 on the Missouri River.

The voyage did not get off to the best start. Discipline was occasionally poor, and on 17 May, three men were court-martialled for being absent without leave. Meanwhile, Lewis was given his own warning on 23 May, when he fell six metres from a cliff before managing to stop his fall with his knife, just barely saving his own life. There was no margin for error, and the brooding, solitary Lewis was reminded that wandering alone was a dangerous habit. Of course, that would not stop him.

The weather was fine, but it was hard going, with the fierce Missouri River frequently needing to be cleared to allow the boats free passage, and mosquitoes, ticks and illness proving to be a growing problem. It was during this summer that the expedition suffered its only fatality, when Sergeant Charles Floyd died of appendicitis. However, Lewis's journeys into the woods provided them with an abundance of new discoveries. A meeting with the Oto and Missouri Native Americans on 3 August went very well, with speeches and exchanges of gifts getting the reception Lewis and Clark had hoped for.

Another successful meeting was held on 30 August, this time with the Yankton Sioux, and the Corps of Discovery entered the Great Plains

in early September. It was here that the natural history aspect of the mission really began, as never-before-seen animals roamed. Beasts that seem archetypally American today (elk, bison, coyotes and antelope, for example) were a new discovery by these awe-struck men from the east. But the animals weren't the only ones who called this land home, and the expedition was about to be reminded that, to some, they were trespassing.

Although every encounter with Native American tribes had been peaceful so far, tensions quickly ran high when they met the Teton Sioux (now known as the Lakota Sioux) near what is now South Dakota, in September. The travellers had been warned that this tribe could be unfriendly, and it seemed that conflict was inevitable following a series of difficult meetings and demands for one of their boats. Crisis was averted thanks to

the intervention of their chief, Black Buffalo, although Clark's diaries show that all was not forgiven, referring to them as, "vile miscreants of the savage race."

They travelled on northwards, reaching the Mandan settlements (a heavily populated area with more people calling it home than Washington DC at the time) at the end of October. Quickly, they began work on their winter camp, Fort Mandan, as the cold weather bit harder than the men had ever experienced. It was here that they made

one of the most important decisions of their voyage. They hired the French-Canadian Toussaint Charbonneau, a fur trader, and his 16-year-old Shoshone wife Sacagawea as interpreters. Lewis and Clark were heading to the mountains, and although they had no idea quite how colossal the range was, they knew they would need horses. Native speakers would be invaluable for trade as well as safe passage. Sacagawea gave birth to her son, Jean Baptiste (nicknamed Pomp by Clark), during the winter, and many credit this woman and her child accompanying the travellers with being the reason they were treated so hospitably by tribes they met on the rest of the journey.



Lewis, Clark and their guide, Sacagawea, in the Bitterroot Mountains (present-day Idaho)



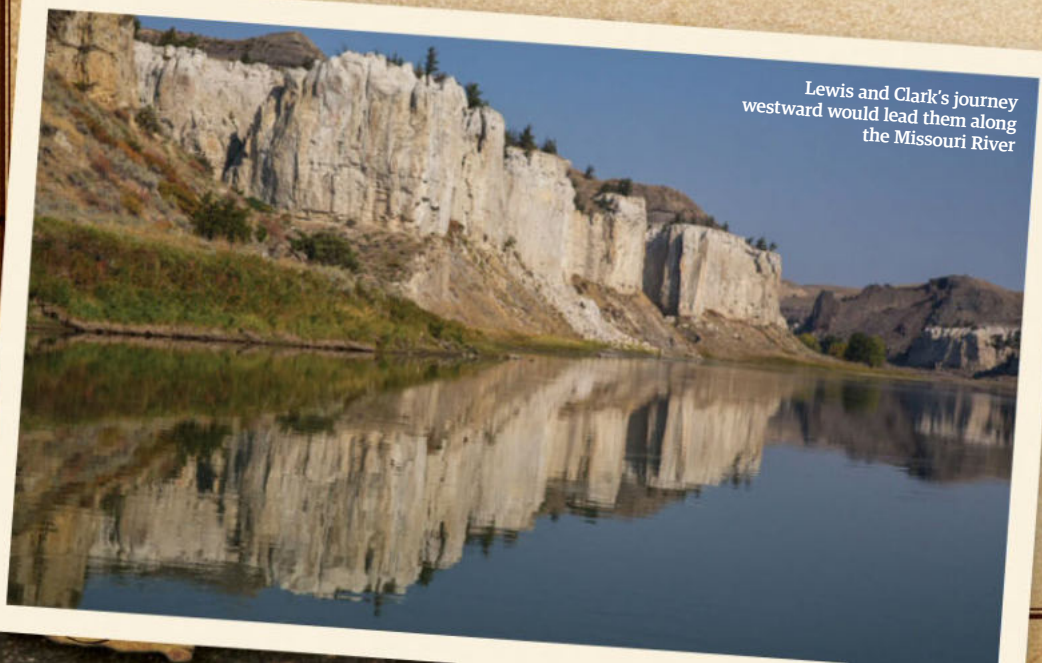
The Corps of Discovery meets the Chinook people on the Columbia River in October 1805

Having sent a small group back to St Louis with samples of their findings, the Corps of Discovery set out again on 7 April. They made excellent time through unexplored country, and it became clear that bringing Sacagawea was a wise decision indeed. Not only did she help them to forage, showing them what was edible and what wasn't, she also had the presence of mind to rescue important papers when a boat capsized.

Then, at the start of June, everything nearly fell apart. They had reached a fork in the Missouri River, and Lewis and Clark had to make a choice. If they chose poorly, they would be taken completely off course, and it was an incredible relief when they reached the waterfalls they had been told they would find if they were on the right track. However, the right track was not an easy path to take, and the Great Falls were another colossal challenge. There was a constant threat from bears and rattlesnakes, and several crewmembers were ill.

They would have to go the long way around, 29 kilometres over difficult terrain, carrying everything that they needed. There was no way back. Incredibly, the crew pulled together and accomplished this amazing feat. It's a testament to the spirit of these men, their awareness of the importance of their mission and the leadership of Lewis and Clark that the only thing lost on this brutal detour was time, and the dream of Lewis's iron-framed boat, which simply did not work.

Time, of course, was of the essence. Despite making the right choice at a second set of forks, winter was coming and there were still mountains to climb. They needed to reach the Shoshone tribe and trade for horses if they were to have any hope of reaching their goal, and as they grew closer, Sacagawea helped to navigate through the territory of her youth. However, finding the tribe proved to be difficult, and Lewis and a scout broke off from





Sacagawea's knowledge of the route ahead was invaluable to Lewis and Clark's expedition

"THEY HAD REACHED A FORK IN THE MISSOURI RIVER, AND LEWIS AND CLARK HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE. IF THEY CHOSE POORLY, THEY WOULD BE TAKEN COMPLETELY OFF COURSE"

the group while Clark continued with the rest of the party up the river. Another crushing blow was delivered when Lewis saw the full extent of the mountains they would have to cross. There was no Northwest Passage through the Rocky Mountains.

Finally, they found the Shoshone, who had never seen anyone like these strangers before. Sacagawea acted as an interpreter, and, while speaking, realised that the tribe's chief, Cameahwait, was her brother. This amazing stroke of luck secured the horses needed for their mountain crossing, after two weeks resting at the Shoshone camp.

In September, they began their mountain crossing at the Bitterroot Range with a Shoshone guide named Old Toby. The weather was against them, Toby lost his way for a while, and the group faced the very real possibility of starvation over two agonising weeks. They finally found their way to the settlement of the Nez Perce on 23 September, who decided to spare the lives of these wretched, starving travellers. In fact, they were incredibly hospitable, sheltering them for two weeks and even teaching them a new way to build canoes. Their first downstream journey may have seemed like a blessed relief, but the rapids were fantastically dangerous, and they were watched with great interest as they made their way down the perilous waters. Once again, they overcame the odds.

On 7 November, Clark was convinced that he could see the Pacific, writing, "Ocean in view! O! The Joy... This great Pacific Ocean which we have

been so long anxious to see. And the roaring or noise made by the waves breaking on the rocky shores (as I suppose) may be heard distinctly." He was sadly mistaken. They were 32 kilometres away, and it would take more than a week in bad weather to reach Cape Disappointment on 18 November. Clark wrote that the, "...men appear much satisfied with their trip, beholding with astonishment the high waves dashing against the rocks and this immense ocean." They had reached the Pacific; their mission was accomplished. Lewis and Clark decided to take a vote on where to build their winter camp, which is believed to be the first time in recorded US history that a slave (York) and a woman (Sacagawea) were allowed to vote. The winter was tough, as endless rain dampened their spirits, but in March they set out to return, using Clark's updated map. Their journey home may have been shorter (a mere six months), but had its own dangers, including a violent encounter with Blackfoot Indians that resulted in two killings. They finally arrived in St Louis on 23 September 1806, almost two and a half years after setting off.

Lewis, Clark and the Corps of Discovery had gone where no white man had gone before. The discoveries they had made, from plant life to animals (grizzly bears, bison, bighorns, wolves and more) to the Native American tribes they met, helped to bring a greater understanding of the nation to Washington, and they changed the shape of the burgeoning United States of America.

LIFE AFTER THE VOYAGE

What became of the intrepid pair once they returned

Lewis and Clark were hailed as national heroes, and President Thomas Jefferson was eager to show how pleased he was, giving both men political appointments. However, in the case of Lewis, these new honours did not help him to find any peace. He struggled with his duties as governor of Louisiana and frequently gave in to his dark moods and burgeoning alcoholism. It ended in tragedy when, on his way to Washington on 12 October 1809, Lewis shot himself.

Clark's life makes for much happier reading. He worked as an agent for Indian affairs and was married in 1808, before becoming the governor of the Missouri Territory for ten years. Despite his harsh words for the Lakota Sioux after their nearly violent encounter, Clark became renowned for his fair treatment of Native Americans (with some accusing him of being too sympathetic). He also cared for the child of Sacagawea after she and Toussaint left young Jean Baptiste (the baby Clark had called Pomp) in his care. He continued to raise Jean Baptiste after Sacagawea's death in 1812, and the young man would later travel to Europe and the German court.



Portraits of William Clark (left) and Meriwether Lewis (right) painted in c.1807

LEWIS AND CLARK

ON THE TRAIL

Track the intrepid explorers' journey across Louisiana Territory

01. CAMP WOOD 14 MAY 1804

After taking the river down from Pittsburgh and meeting Clark at Louisville, this is where they begin preparing for the expedition. Supplies are gathered, men are trained, and the importance of the voyage is impressed upon everyone. Some disciplining of the men is required before they set out.

02. LAKOTA SIOUX 25 SEPTEMBER 1804

Although they have experienced several peaceful encounters with Native American tribes, the Corps of Discovery has a fraught encounter with the Lakota Sioux on the river near what is now Pierre, South Dakota. Without the interference of the tribe's chief, this could have been the end for everyone.

03. FORT MANDAN OCTOBER 1804 - APRIL 1805

The travellers arrive at the Mandan-Hidatsa settlement and make preparations for their winter camp, to be named Fort Mandan. Lewis and Clark arrange for many of their discoveries and journals to be sent back to St Louis, and Sacagawea joins the expedition.

04. THE UNKNOWN FORK 1 JUNE 1805

The expedition reaches another crucial decision when they find an unexpected fork in the Missouri. It's a gamble to choose the right direction, but they know that they have made the correct choice when they see the Great Falls.

05. GREAT FALLS 13 JUNE 1805

They had been told about a great waterfall, but having been confronted with the five cascades of the Great Falls, Lewis and Clark realise that going around over ground will be a long, arduous and backbreaking process. However, there is at least plenty of game to hunt.

06. THREE FORKS 22 JULY 1805

The Three Forks of the Missouri are uncharted when the expedition reaches this crucial point. It is near the end of July and they know that if they end up taking the wrong fork, crossing the mountains will become increasingly perilous.

07. MEETING THE SHOSHONE 17 AUGUST 1805

Sacagawea is finally reunited with her people when the extensive search for the Shoshone is over. Lewis and Clark need her to negotiate for horses, and they have an unexpected stroke of luck when Sacagawea realises that the chief is her brother.

08. BITTERROOT MOUNTAINS 11-23 SEPTEMBER 1805

Accompanied by a Shoshone guide, the expedition sets out into the mountains. They are ill-prepared for such a long journey through the Rockies and face horrible weather conditions and the possibility of starvation.


09. NEZ PERCE 23 SEPTEMBER - 7 OCTOBER 1805

They finally find their way out of the mountains and straight into villages of the Nez Perce Indians. The locals take pity on the starving, bedraggled men, and help them to prepare for the final stage of their journey with new canoes.

10. FORT CLATSOP 24 NOVEMBER 1805 - 23 MARCH 1806

After one false alarm almost two weeks earlier, the Corps of Discovery finally arrives at the Pacific Ocean. They take a vote as to where to build their winter camp, and dream of home while Lewis works on a new and improved map.



- Preparation
- Recruitment
- Exploration and Homecoming
- Indian Reservation
- Louisiana Purchase Boundary
-  Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

NOTABLE DISCOVERIES

GRIZZLY BEAR

The grizzly bears were far bigger than any they had seen before. It took more than ten shots to bring down a single bear when they faced one.



PRAIRIE DOGS

Lewis and Clark found these creatures fascinating, particularly the way in which they lived in connected burrows (described as "towns").



BISON

The explorers were not prepared for the experience of seeing Bison in the wild. Lewis wrote of a friendly calf that was only scared of his dog.





Tribal Reservations are not public lands and are outlined by boundaries established by treaty and proclamation. In most cases these boundaries enclose more acreage than is held in trust. It is impractical to separate state lands from other interspersed lands at this scale. Tribal Reservations smaller than a township (36 square miles, or roughly 23,000 acres) generally are omitted. Scale does not permit marking each of the Indian lands in California.

Preparation credit: Frank Mobley, Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation.

COYOTE

Described as "a prairie wolf", Lewis and Clark heard these creatures howling in the night. They were familiar to European traders, but unknown to the men.



SILVER SAGEBRUSH

First seen in October 1804, the sagebrush, now known as *Artemisia cana*, was described as an "aromatic herb", and it spread through great swathes of the West.



INDIAN TOBACCO

As a tobacco grower, Lewis took particular interest in the two species he encountered on the trip, taking notes on how the Arikara tribe grew and harvested their crops.



DOUGLAS FIRS

Towards the end of the voyage, they saw a variety of fir trees, with Lewis doing his best to describe six in his journal, including the Douglas fir.



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Niccolò Machiavelli

Considered a master of manipulation, was Machiavelli a conniving political exile or a misunderstood, disillusioned satirist?

Written by Philippa Grafton

Hailed as the father of modern politics, Niccolò Machiavelli has long been synonymous with everything bad about the political sphere. His name, turned adjective as 'Machiavellian', conjures up images of a cunning, sly and manipulative figure, hell-bent on achieving their own goals regardless of the means of getting there. But was the man behind the legend really as cruel as his legacy makes out?

Interestingly, Machiavelli's reputation varies from country to country. Tarred as a schemer, he has gone down in English-speaking history as the first of the slimy, slippery politicians - yet in his home nation of Italy, any notion of this historical bias is shed and the man is seen for what he really was: an innovator whose views were far ahead of his time - by 500 years, in fact. To this day, Machiavelli's philosophical insights into the world of politics have shaped modern ruling, and his observations are just as relevant as they were in the 15th century.

Born in 1469, little is known of Machiavelli's childhood except that he grew up on his father's estate on the outskirts of Florence, where he received

an education fit for an up-and-coming Florentine diplomat. A centre of philosophical thinking, Florence provided Machiavelli with an exceptional humanist education. But this hub of culture was in a perpetual state of tumult. Florence had served as the origin of the Italian Renaissance less than a century before, and with the rise of the Medici in the early 1400s, the city prospered and grew. Yet as Florence thrived under Cosimo de' Medici, the state faced constant strife with its neighbouring districts, while on the horizon, foreign invasion looked imminent. Enduring peace was a distant dream. By 1494, the Medici had been expelled from Florence, and it was in this harsh, unstable environment that Machiavelli thrived.

In 1498, the intellectual attended sermons and speeches by Girolamo Savonarola, a preacher whose views went against the grain. Savonarola preached against the corruption of the pope, among other topics, and was hanged later that year, accused of being a heretic. Merely days later, Machiavelli found himself in charge of Florence's foreign affairs as the head of the second chancery. How exactly this young

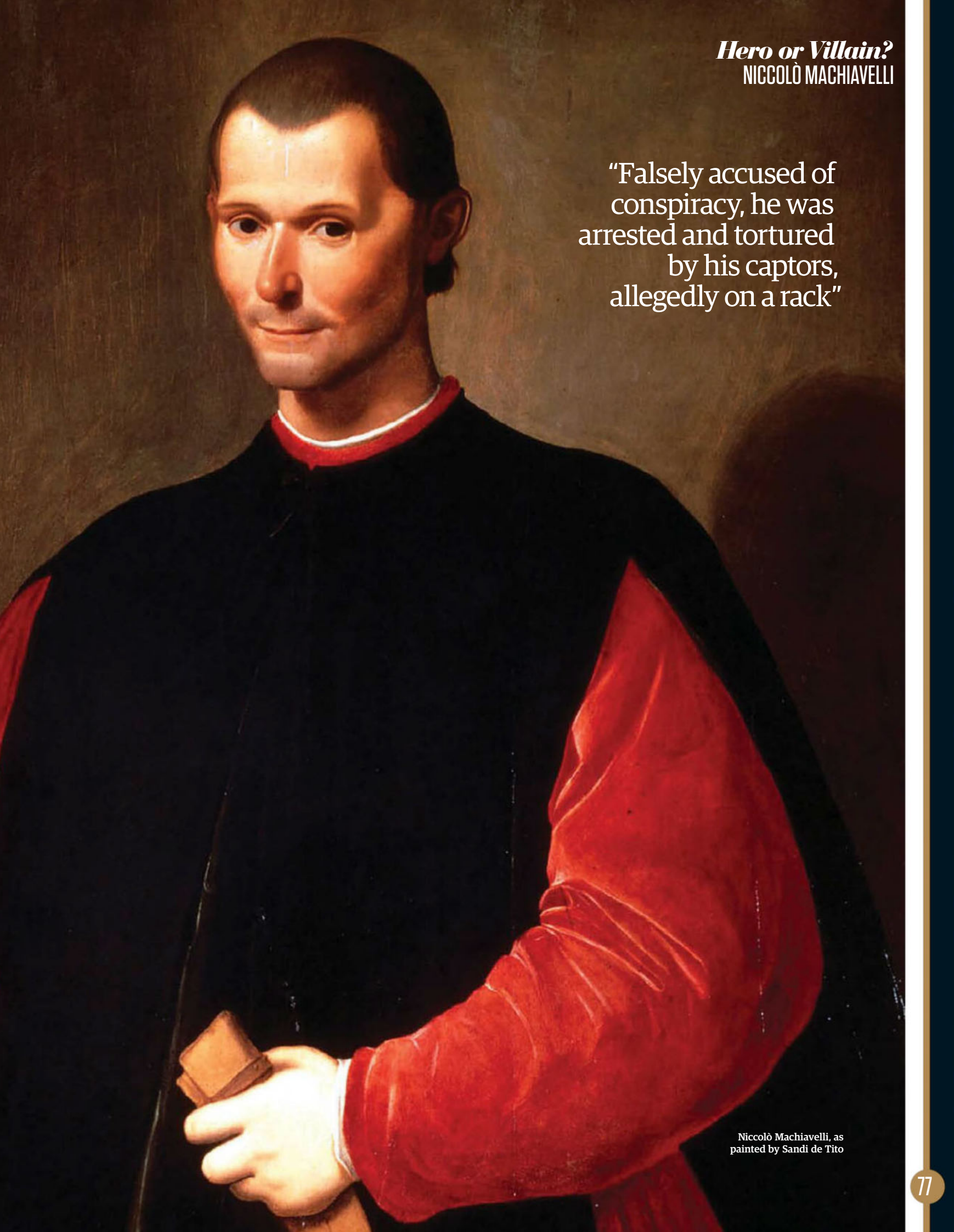
Defining moment

Meeting the king of France

In July 1500, Machiavelli made the first of four trips to visit King Louis XII of France. These meetings helped to shape his writings in *The Prince* - in particular those found in Chapter Three, which covers the acquisition of new territories and undermining existing ruling families, and is considered one of the most ruthless in the book.

July 1500

“Falsely accused of
conspiracy, he was
arrested and tortured
by his captors,
allegedly on a rack”



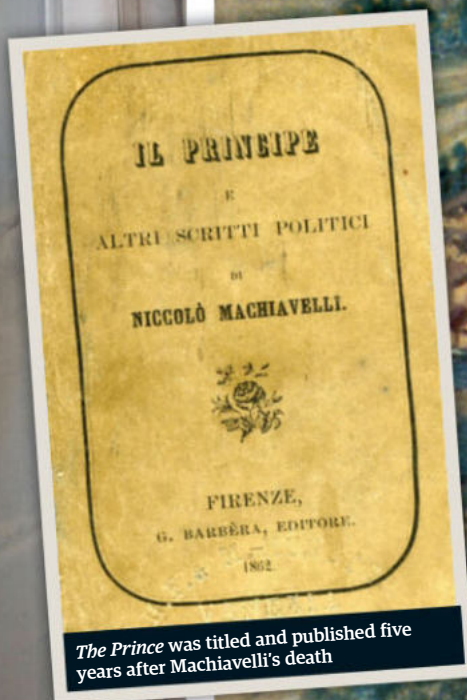
Niccolò Machiavelli, as
painted by Sandi de Tito

Hero or Villain?

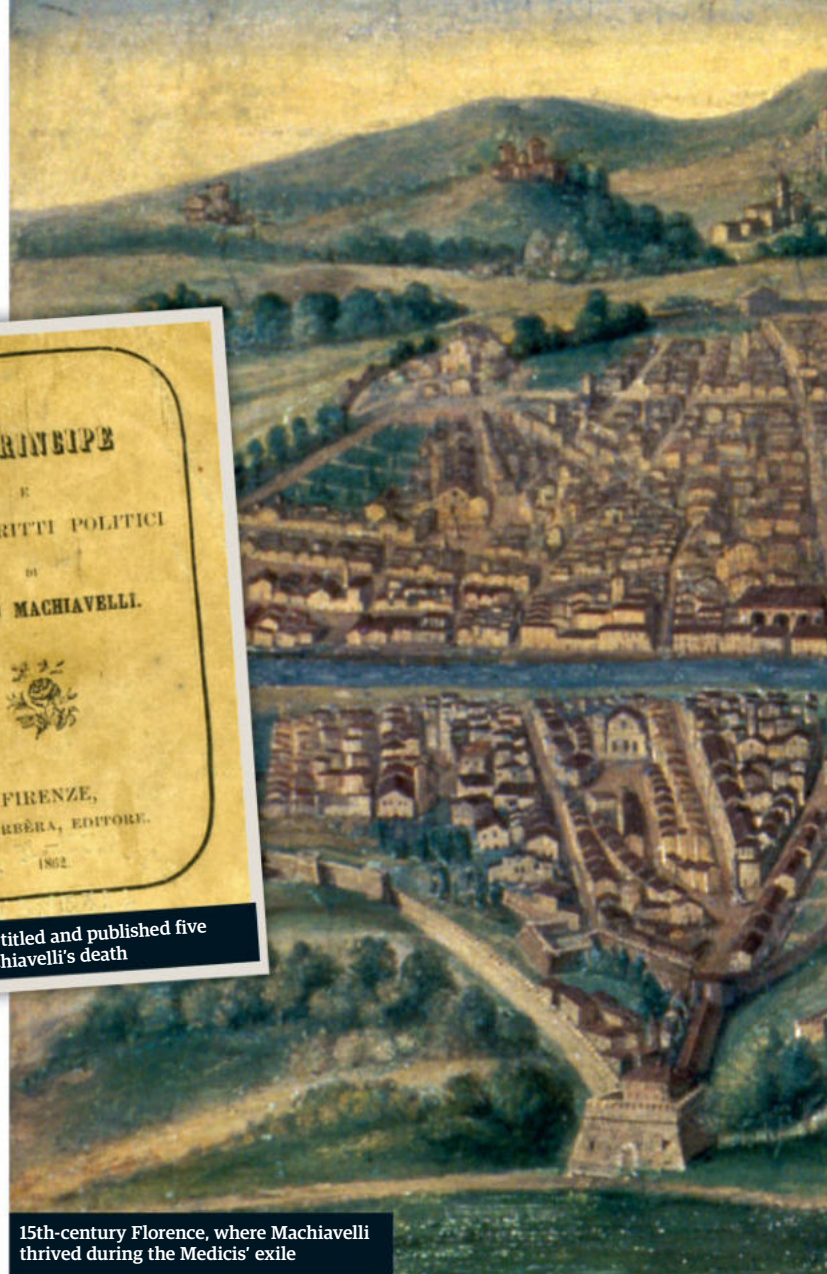
NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI



Revered in Italy, a statue of Machiavelli stands outside the Uffizi Gallery in Florence



The Prince was titled and published five years after Machiavelli's death



15th-century Florence, where Machiavelli thrived during the Medici's exile

man entered such a high position in government without known prior experience confounds historians to this day, but his tenure lasted until 1512, when the Medici returned to power.

During the eight years that the Medici family was exiled, Machiavelli's political career went from strength to strength. He won the favour of the chief magistrate (gonfalonier), Piero Soderini, whom he convinced to found a militia in 1505, which reduced the city's reliance on mercenaries. Created by Soderini, the militia was run by Machiavelli. On top of this, Machiavelli made visits to renowned figures, including Cesare Borgia (whose political prowess influenced much of Machiavelli's early writing, and later inspired part of his most notorious work, *The Prince*), Charles VIII of France and several reigning popes of their time.

It was in 1503 that Machiavelli began to write seriously. His poem - the first *Decennali*, which was

part one of a two-part poetry epic on the history of Florence - was finished a year later. Yet behind the scenes of Machiavelli's high-flying diplomatic career there were cunning forces at work. Pope Julius II

had enlisted Spain in his war against France under the Holy League, and in early September, he commanded his general, Ramón de Cardona, to seize Florence. With that achievement, the House of Medici was restored.

This spelled catastrophe for Machiavelli. Falsely accused of conspiracy, he was arrested and tortured by his captors, allegedly on a rack. He fiercely denied any involvement in the plots against the Medici, but Machiavelli was kept imprisoned. Yet fortune

was on the diplomat's side, as Pope Julius II died in February the following year. Under the new pope, Leo X - who incidentally hailed from the line of ruling Medici - celebrations were organised and an amnesty was agreed. Machiavelli was free. The cost, however, was

dear - he was banned from the city of Florence and ordered to retire to his family estate on the outskirts of the city. It was during this exile that Machiavelli began to pen his most famous works, including the controversial comment on politics that still rings true to this day, *The Prince*.

Confined to his estate outside of Florence, Machiavelli pondered how to weave his way back in to the political landscape of the city and came to a conclusion: he would write a guide to politics as he'd experienced it during his diplomatic career. In 1513, he completed *The Prince* and dedicated it to Lorenzo the Magnificent, the newly proclaimed ruler of Florence and head of the Medici family. To this day, the exact purpose of the dedication is debated - was it to flatter the ruler in an attempt to have himself reinstated, or was it an intellectual satire, mocking the politics of the city from which he'd been exiled?

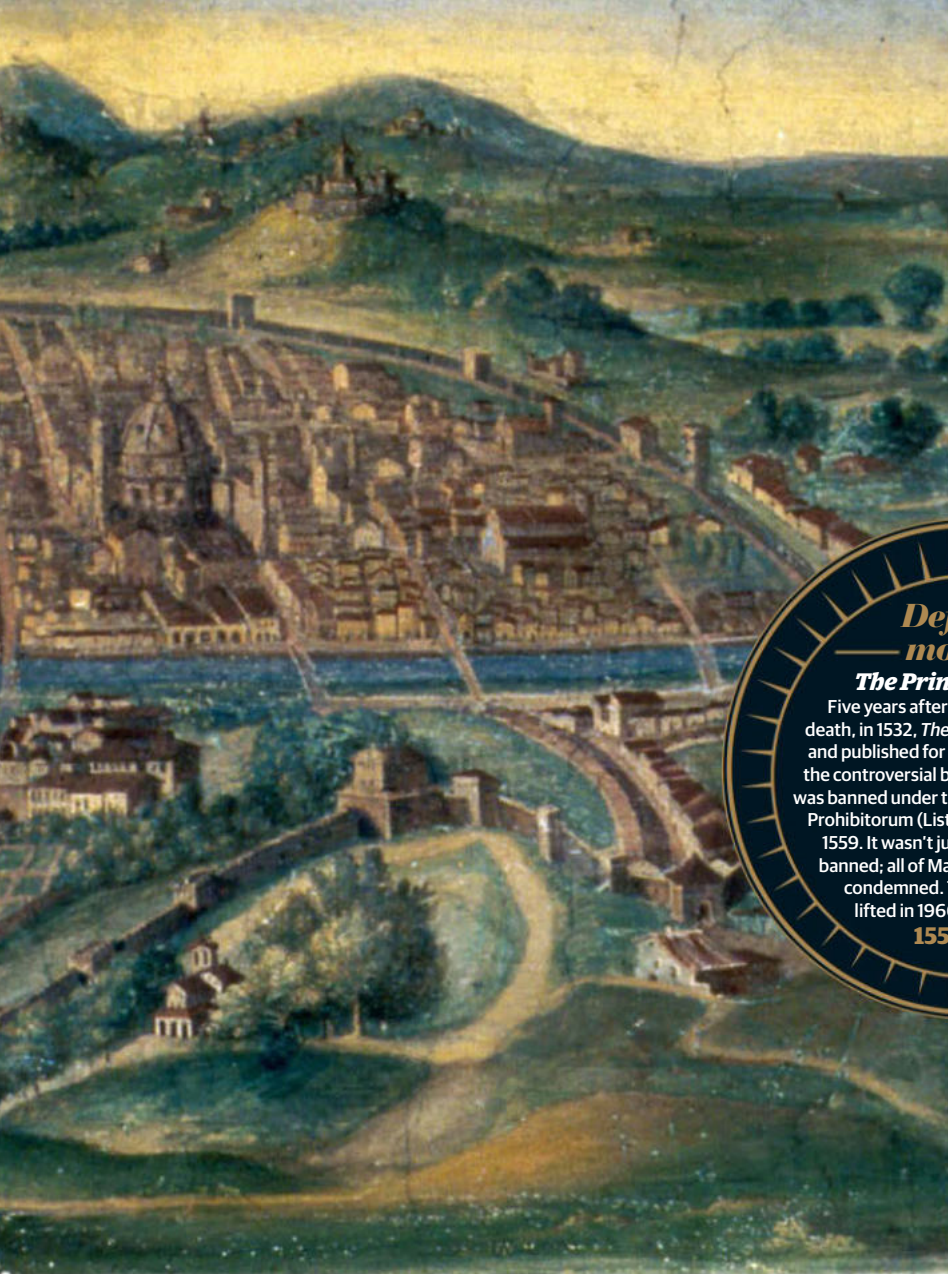
Either way, the book was enough to cause scandal when it was published in 1532, five years after Machiavelli's death. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli split his work in to two parts - the first was devoted to methods of gaining power, while the second (and arguably most important) section offered advice on how to hold on to power when you had it. It was this book and its controversial statements for which Machiavelli is best remembered - and not fondly.

Defining moment

Arrest and torture

After the Medici's return to the city, Machiavelli was accused of conspiring against them and incarcerated. This wrongful accusation and subsequent torture of Machiavelli arguably influenced the creation of his most renowned work, *The Prince*, a year later. Some claim that the writings were a reaction to the trauma that Machiavelli had been subjected to at the hands of the Medici family after their return to power.

1512



Defining moment

The Prince is banned

Five years after Niccolò Machiavelli's death, in 1532, *The Prince* was given its title and published for the first time. However, the controversial book caused outrage and was banned under the pope's Index Librorum Prohibitorum (List of Prohibited Books) in 1559. It wasn't just *The Prince* that was banned; all of Machiavelli's works were condemned. The Index was only lifted in 1966 by Pope Paul VI.

1559-1966

A posthumous portrait of Lorenzo de Medici by Giorgio Vasari

"While in life he failed as a politician, Machiavelli's writings have inspired generations of leaders - both good and bad"

Aside from providing a description of the qualities that any ruler should have, *The Prince* also posed a very serious moral question: was it better to keep your moral integrity intact and lose power, or to compromise, using your cunning and wit, regardless of the method, in order to achieve your goals?

Two chapters in particular fanned the flames of controversy. In Chapter 18, entitled 'Concerning The Way In Which Princes Keep Faith', Machiavelli wrote that while it is admirable to attempt to be a virtuous ruler, sometimes it is necessary to employ less-than-moral means to succeed; that for the sake of ultimate good, sometimes you need to be bad. Here, Machiavelli claimed, "A prince being thus obliged to know well how to act as a beast must imitate the fox and the lion, for the lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognise traps, and a lion to frighten wolves."

Chapter Seven, titled 'Concerning New Principalities Which Are Acquired Either By The

Arms Of Others Or By Good Fortune', also appalled readers. Machiavelli seemed to advocate murder as he recounted the story of the Duke of Valentinois, Cesare Borgia, conquering Cesena in Romagna. Having employed Remirro de Orco as his deputy, Borgia commanded him to pacify and subdue the town with force, and he used brutal tactics, such as beheadings and castrations, to bring peace to the region. The town was tamed but the residents despised Orco, so Borgia had his deputy cut in half and displayed in the town piazza in order to curry favour. With the brutality over, Borgia reduced taxation and invested in the town through the creation of a theatre and carnival. This was served up as the perfect example of where the ends (ultimate peace, protection and prosperity for his people) justified the means (mass murder and mutilation).

After completing *The Prince*, Machiavelli moved on to other writings, including *Discourses On Livy*, *Art Of War* and *The Mandrake Root*, among others. If *The Prince* really was a cunning ploy to impress, then it

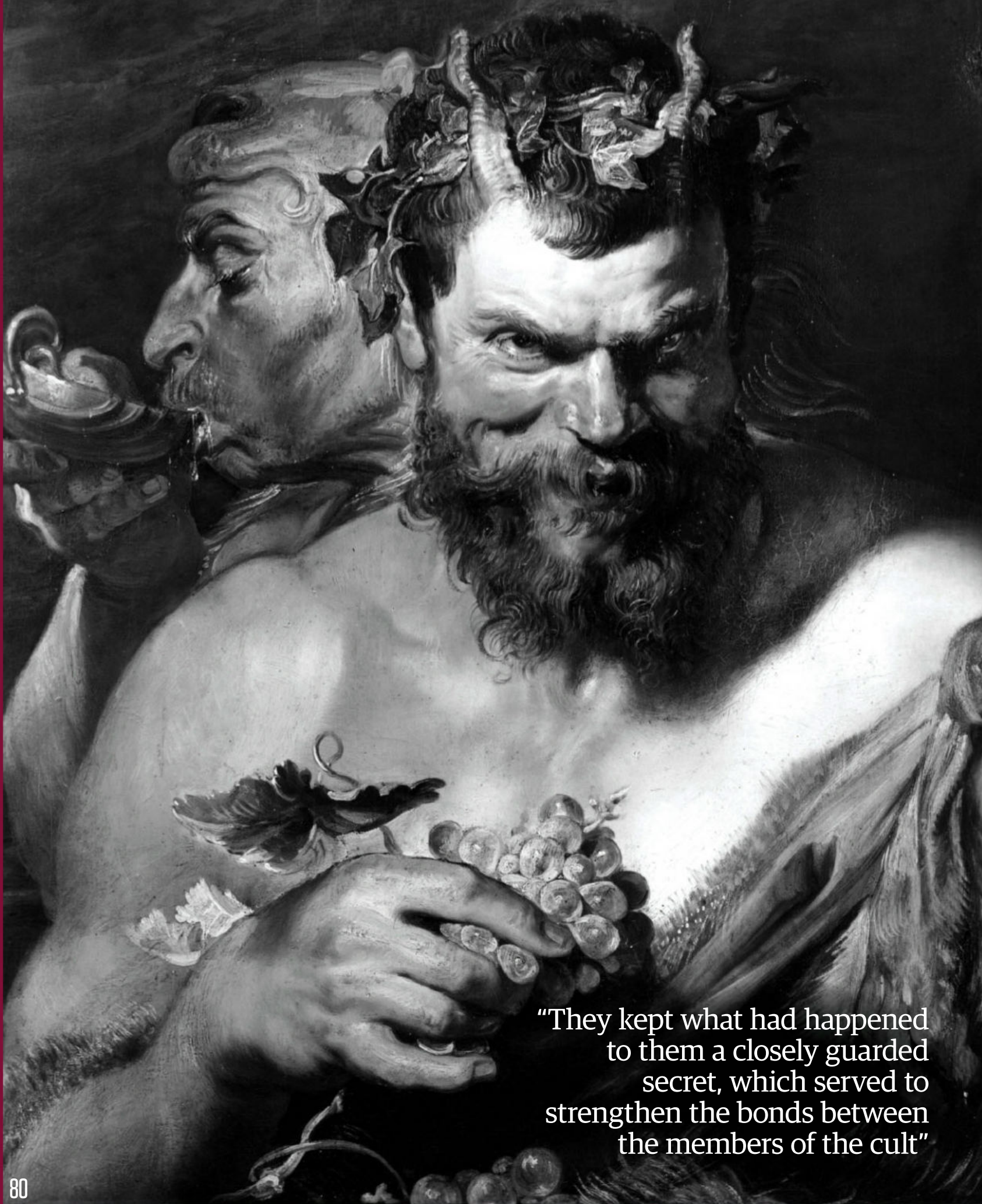
never fulfilled its purpose. In all likelihood, Lorenzo the Magnificent never read Machiavelli's masterpiece, and until his death in 1527 at the age of 58, the exiled politician remained confined to his estate, never to return to the political sphere. Yet while in life he failed as a politician, Machiavelli's writings have inspired generations of leaders - both good and bad. Among the tyrants and dictators of contemporary history who studied *The Prince* - including Stalin and Mussolini - the work has inspired some of modern culture's most iconic creators, including George RR Martin, the author of the books that inspired TV fantasy series *Game Of Thrones*.

To this day, Machiavelli's writings remain relevant - perhaps more so in today's political climate than ever before. The rules of power haven't changed in over 500 years of politics. What has changed are the faces that mask the true nature of being a politician - those shrewd, Machiavellian schemers that embody the truths of Machiavelli's writing - but perhaps that's not such a bad thing.

Was Niccolò Machiavelli a hero or a villain?
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"They kept what had happened to them a closely guarded secret, which served to strengthen the bonds between the members of the cult"



ROMAN MYSTERY CULTS

Uncover the secret rites and bizarre rituals of the Roman spiritual underworld

Written by Marc DeSantis

Much of Roman religion was public in nature. It was all-important to the residents of the city to maintain Rome's good relationship with the gods, and this was done through regular sacrifices and the maintenance of myriad temples dedicated to them. But behind closed doors, those seeking more intimate contact with the divine threw raucous parties, committed gruesome self-mutilation and performed ritual re-enactments. Known as 'mystery cults', these highly secretive societies spread through the Roman world from the East and became extremely popular.

These societies were dedicated to various gods and typically promised their devotees a happy afterlife. Mystery cults allowed the individual to participate directly in the worship service, and the ceremonies often involved ecstatic dancing and singing. These experiences were intended to be transformative, and differed greatly from the more staid rituals of public religion.

One of the earliest cults to come to Rome was that of the Magna Mater, the Great Mother. In 204 BCE, during the dark days of the war with Carthage, the Romans became aware of a prophecy they believed was the key to defeating the enemy. They had to seek out the Great Mother's cult-image and bring this to Rome from Ida, in the kingdom of Pergamum. Her symbol was a sacred stone, which they brought back to Rome, beginning a long

tradition of her worship there. Other borrowings from the East included that of Mithras from Persia. Though Persia had long been an enemy of Rome, Mithras became a popular deity among the Romans, especially with soldiers, officials and merchants of the empire.



In this 17th-century painting, the Magna Mater is being fed by allegorical depictions of the seasons

From Egypt in the 2nd century BCE came the cult of the mother goddess Isis, who became beloved across the Roman world, and from the Greeks, the Romans learned of Dionysus, whom they called Bacchus - the god of agriculture and wine. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this mystery cult's ecstatic rites included drinking and dancing, liberating its members and inducing a trance-like state. Another celebrated cult was the Eleusinian Mysteries, which were held at Eleusis in Greece every autumn and had as their foundation the mythological abduction and recovery by Demeter, goddess of agriculture, of her daughter, Persephone. Before the religious revelry could begin, however, members of the mystery cults had to be initiated.

INITIATION

At the heart of each Roman mystery religion was the *mysterium*, a closely kept secret rite or point of theology. To gain knowledge of this 'mystery', a person had to undergo the process of initiation. This was entirely voluntary; no one was compelled to join a mystery cult or take part in its ceremonies. The purpose of the initiation ritual was to bring the individual, the initiate, into direct contact with a deity through an intense and unforgettable experience. This ecstatic experience was not meant to be explained, but felt. Afterwards, they kept what

ROMAN MYSTERY CULTS

had happened to them a closely guarded secret, which served to strengthen the bonds between the members of the cult.

Initiation into the Bacchanalia, the cult of Bacchus, involved joining a group of Bacchic worshipers and dancing with them in the mountains. Most of these were women, called Bacchantes. Some might also have private initiation, and in this case an initiate could be forced to abstain from food for ten days. Then came a period of feasting, after which they would ritually bathe as a form of purification. Only then were they allowed to enter into a shrine of Bacchus.

For the followers of Isis, known as the Lady of the Mysteries, the initiation ritual was similar to that of Bacchus. Her initiates bathed, and thus purified, and abstained from food for ten days before embarking on several days of feasting. The wearing of ceremonial robes also featured in the initiation, as well as the viewing of sacred hieroglyphs. The promise of life after death was part of the attraction of this benevolent goddess.

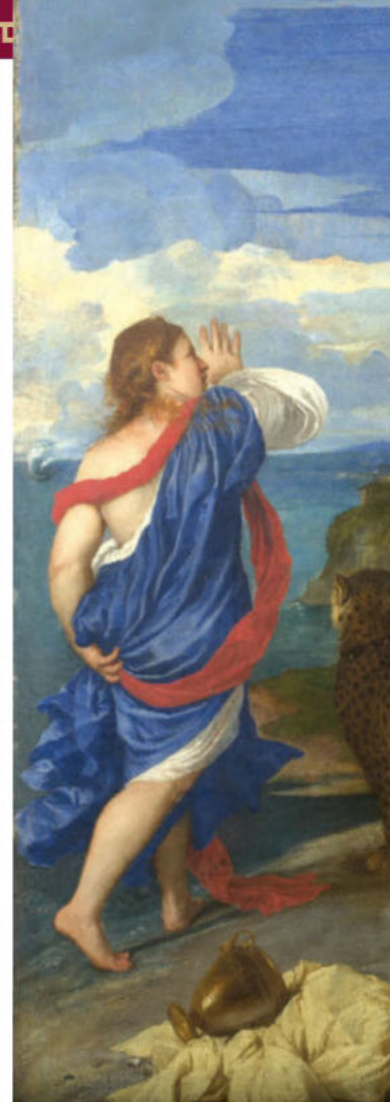
For those who wished to take part in the Eleusinian Mysteries, which continued on in Greece throughout the Roman imperial period, an initiate was made to take part in the so-called Lesser Mysteries that were held each spring in Athens, which was nearby to Eleusis. This initiation process involved sacrifices, ritual purification, fasting and the singing of hymns.

The Great Mother was a figure representing the elemental feminine in its fertility aspect. Magna Mater's male priests, the Galli, were eunuchs, and castrated themselves to be initiated into her priesthood. This extreme act was inspired by the myth that her lover, the god Attis, had done the same. Unlike the other mystery cults, Mithraism accepted only men into its mysteries.

There were seven grades of Mithras's cult, and each of the seven corresponded to one of the known planets of the day. Each grade also had its own rites of initiation. In one, the naked and blindfolded initiate, his hands tied behind him, was made to kneel. Two other men stood beside him as part of the ceremony. A sword was pointed at him, and then he was made to lie prone on the floor. He then had to wear a crown, and lie flat on the ground. Another initiation ritual involved shooting an arrow, thereby re-enacting a story from the life of Mithras in which the god launched an arrow into a rock, causing water to flow from it.



The Bacchus (Dionysian) Mysteries caused scandal in Rome, but this did not stop figures like Mark Antony becoming patrons



This common scene of Mithras killing a bull with his bare hands is known as tauroctony

RITES

The cult of the Magna Mater, the Great Mother, was popular all over the ancient world, and she was known by many names, including Rhea, Demeter, and especially Cybele, the great goddess of Phrygia, whose cult image the Romans brought to Rome. She was the mother of not just all of the gods, but of all humanity, too. Her rites in Rome maintained the link between the goddess and her original homeland in Asia Minor. Her sanctuary, set on the Vatican Hill, was known as the Phrygianum, and the leader of her cult was known as the Phrygian High Priest. There was an annual festival in Rome held in her honour, which ran for seven days and included races in the circus. Rites included dancing and music, with the playing of flutes, cymbals, horns and tambourines, and priests would slash themselves with knives while performing an ecstatic

Inside the Roman Pantheon

The mystery cults supplemented, but did not supplant, the Romans' belief in their traditional gods



Jupiter

God of the sky, Jupiter was the greatest of the gods. He was the husband of Juno and the father of many of gods and heroes.



Venus

The goddess of love, she was irresistibly beautiful and had several affairs with gods as well as mortal men.



Apollo

The son of Jupiter by Leto was the god of music and the Sun. He was also the brother of Diana.



Roman mythology borrowed heavily from the Greeks, resulting in many gods, heroes and stories getting a Roman makeover

Talismans and trinkets

The Romans encountered their gods everywhere - in the home and on the road

The Roman home was protected by a guardian spirit, and these were known as lares. In origin, these were ancestral family spirits that watched over the household of its descendants. These tutelary gods stood at the centre of the family's religious life. A shrine containing a statuette of the spirit was set beside the hearth, and each morning they were greeted with prayers. At festival time, the lares were offered food. Outside the home, lares were thought to watch over the crossroads where the family's fields met another's. As such, they came to be known as the gods of travellers also.

Another group of guardian spirits, known as penates, were the gods that protected the food pantry of a Roman household and also watched over the family as a whole. Said to have been brought to Rome from Troy by the hero Aeneas, these spirits were worshiped at the hearth of the home where a fire was always kept lit in their honour. At mealtime, the family sacrificed a bit of food to their household penates. In addition to the domestic lares and penates, there were also public spirits that watched over the Roman state.

dance. Their flowing blood symbolically ensured the fertility of the world.

One particularly dramatic ritual of Magna Mater that may have occurred was the taurobolium - a baptism in bull's blood. A pit was dug and wooden planks were placed over it. Next, a man lowered himself into the pit, and a bull was led onto the planks. The animal was then impaled by a spear, and its blood was allowed to run down through the spaces between the planks, spilling onto the man below. Once the bull had been drained of its blood, the man emerged, ritually purified for 20 years by the power of the Great Mother, acting through the bull's blood. This account comes from a Christian source and is considered anachronistic, and many historians

believe that the blood was actually carefully collected into vessels instead.



The Egyptian goddess Isis shared much in common with the Great Mother, as they were seen as mistresses of life and fertility. Her rites guaranteed a blissful afterlife for participants. The theme of these ceremonies was the ritual re-enactment of the death and resurrection of her husband, Osiris. Osiris reborn also symbolised the rebirth of nature in springtime. A dead person might be summoned back to the realm of the living with the words, "Raise yourself to life: you do not die!" and "Osiris live! Stand up, unhappy one who doest lie there! I am Isis!" Just as Isis raised Osiris from the dead, so would the dead worshiper be raised again to life.

Like Magna Mater and Isis, Demeter was a mother goddess, and her mysteries at Eleusis commemorated her search for her daughter Persephone, or Kore, the maiden in Greek mythology. Carried off by Hades, Kore was held captive in the Underworld. The inconsolable Demeter roamed the Earth searching for her. Crops would not grow, and plague and death stalked the world. So bad did things become that Zeus himself was forced to intervene and secure Kore's freedom. But because she had eaten pomegranate seeds while in Hades' realm, she was forced ever after to spend a third of the year there as his consort. Kore's time in the Underworld is thus one of great sadness for her mother, and during this time, the season of winter, nothing grows upon Earth. With the arrival of spring, Demeter is reunited with her daughter and life returns to the earth.

Once an initiate had been inducted into the Lesser Mysteries, he or she was allowed to take



Diana

A maiden goddess of the hunt, Diana was the daughter of Jupiter by Latona and sister to Apollo.



Minerva

The wise warrior goddess Minerva was the daughter of Jupiter and a staunch patroness of mortal heroes.



Vulcan

Vulcan, son of Jupiter, was the smith of the gods, producing wondrous items in his forge. His wife was Venus.



Vesta

Goddess of the hearth, Vesta watched over the fire of the Roman household. She was the sister of Jupiter.

ROMAN MYSTERY CULTS

part in the Greater Mysteries, which took place over several days of sacrifices, purification and fasting. The precise elements of the mysteries themselves are not known to historians today - they were shrouded in secrecy, after all - but they seem to have included music, dancing and a re-enactment of the abduction and recovery of Persephone. The most dramatic part of the mysteries seems to have been a vision beheld by the participant of something in the brightest of light.

Mithras was in origin a god associated with truth and a lieutenant of the primary Zoroastrian deity, Ahura Mazda. Once it came into the Roman world, Mithraism was a heavily changed religion that now viewed Mithras as a saviour god. The rites of his cult echoed the origin myth of Mithras, who was said to have been born from a rock. Ahura Mazda had created first a wild bull, and Mithras wrestled it and hauled it into a cave. The bull escaped, but Mithras tracked it down and slew it by a dagger thrust to its throat. Life then flowed from the gushing blood of the bull. Mithraists would convene their worship meetings in underground chapels, which they called caves, where they shared communal meals of wine

and bread. The goal of Mithraism was to purify the immortal soul, making it ready for a return to the realm of light upon death of the individual.

SUPPRESSION

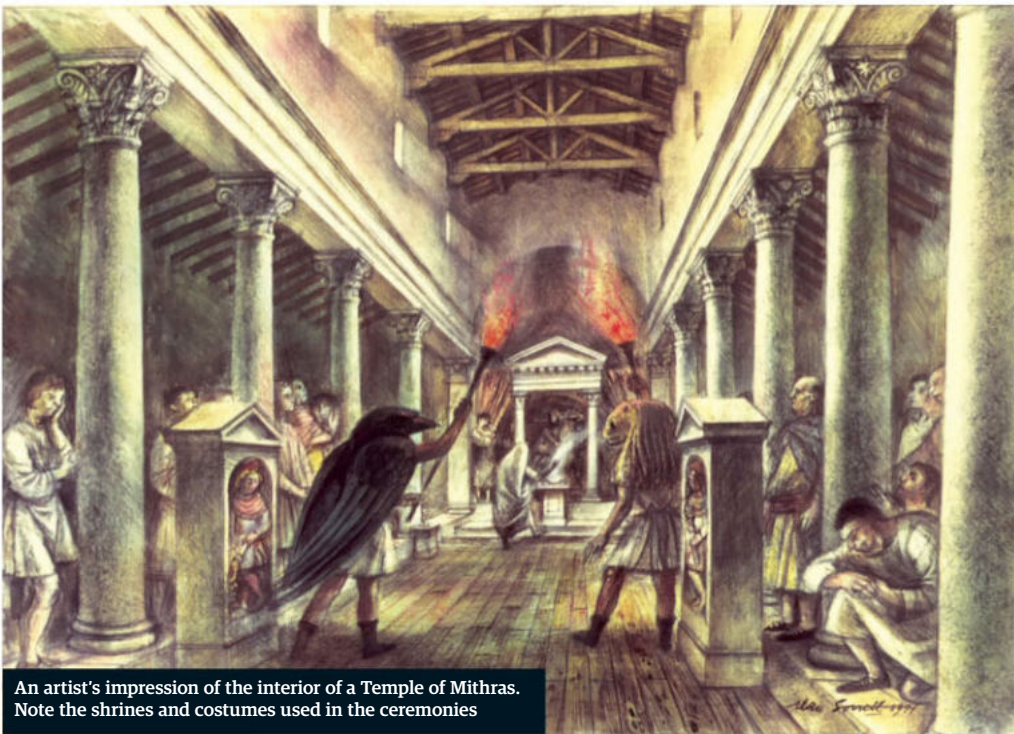
Romans did not universally approve of mystery cults, even if they undeniably achieved widespread popularity and won many adherents. Even some emperors joined the societies, not least among them Emperor Domitian (who reigned from 81-96 CE) who was initiated into the mysteries of Isis, and Emperor Gallienus (who reigned from 260-268), who became an initiate of the Eleusinian Mysteries.

One Roman traditionalist - the 1st century BCE historian Livy - would write in horror that during Bacchic mysteries, "Matrons dressed as bacchantes with their hair dishevelled, would run to the Tiber

with burning torches, and plunge the torches into the water, then bring them up again still alight - as live sulphur was mixed with calcium. Men were said to be abducted by the gods, when they were tied to machines and carried out of sight into hidden caves." Not least, Livy seems to have feared the mysteries as excuses for all sorts of sexual licence between the male and female initiates. To some extent, the intense insistence upon secrecy logically, if unintentionally, induced anxiety among the uninitiated of Roman society.

Constantine's victory at the Milvian Bridge in 312 under the auspices of the Christian God led him to make Christianity a legal religion under imperial law in the next year in the Edict of Milan. Christians increased in number and power as the 4th century progressed. The legal position of paganism, which the mystery cults were part of, began to deteriorate

"The intense insistence upon secrecy logically, if unintentionally, induced anxiety among the uninitiated of Roman society"



An artist's impression of the interior of a Temple of Mithras. Note the shrines and costumes used in the ceremonies

as Christianity became the most powerful religion in the empire. Still, the practice of mystery religions did not disappear quickly. Even in the latter half of the 4th century prominent Romans would proudly acknowledge having been initiated into the mysteries of various cults. However, at the end of the century, in 391, Emperor Theodosius I forbade the worship of pagan gods in Rome as well as visits to their temples. In the following year, he outlawed the practice of all pagan religions whatsoever.

Other forces would also act to bring about the end of mystery religions. In c.395, the Goths attacked and destroyed the sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Eleusis. The sanctuary was never to be repaired, bringing an end to the cult mysteries held there since at least the 6th century BCE. Paganism would hold on in diminished form for many years. There were still enough adherents that Saint Augustine saw the need to compose his *City Of God* to rebut the allegation, put forward by Rome's remaining pagans, that the neglect of the old gods had led to the sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410. The overall trend, however, was for mystery religions to fade away as the ancient world changed and the Middle Ages began.

Neptune

The trident-wielding Neptune was lord of the sea and the younger brother of Jupiter.

Mars

Mars was the honoured god of war among the military-minded Romans, second only to Jupiter in their estimation.

Mercury

The fleet-footed messenger of Jupiter, Mercury conducted the spirits of the dead to the Underworld.

Ceres

Goddess of the earth and all growing things, Ceres was patroness of fertility and sister to Jupiter.

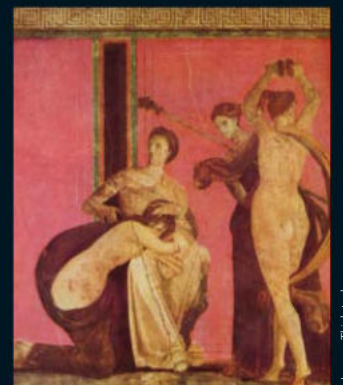
VILLA OF THE MYSTERIES

Buried for centuries in ash, the Villa of the Mysteries in Pompeii is a window on to the mystery worship of ancient times

The mystery cult of Bacchus (Dionysus) found great favour in Rome and elsewhere in Italy. However, rare is the case where we can see how the mysteries of his cult, or that of any other god, for that matter, were celebrated by adherents. We are fortunate then to have the Villa of the Mysteries, a home that was preserved from the ravages of time, ironically, by the ravages of the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. In 79 CE, the nearby southern Italian town of Pompeii was buried completely by volcanic ash, and forgotten. It lay undisturbed until its rediscovery in the 18th century.

Within the villa is a room with painted friezes along its walls that depict the mystery worship of Bacchus in glorious colour and remarkable detail. These are arguably the most famous paintings of the Roman world still in existence. Running for about 20 metres around the room, the friezes show a number of individual figures at roughly human size of gods, men, women and mythological beings engaged in the cultic worship of Bacchus.

Interpreting the scenes is difficult, as much of their context has been lost. A damaged painting of Bacchus and his consort, Ariadne, would have been the first to be viewed when entering the room. In one scene, a plump Silenus plays a lyre; in another, a youthful Pan plays his flute. In one, a woman rests her head on the lap of another while a winged woman strikes her with a rod. Next to them both dances a woman with cymbals. It is most likely that the friezes inside the room depicted the initiation of a young woman in to the cult of Bacchus.



Rumours of sexual abuse and murder saw the Bacchus Mystery outlawed for a time

© Alamy/Getty Images, Thinkstock



This fresco from the Villa of the Mysteries probably shows a Bacchus Mystery initiation ritual with the gods Silenus and Pan



This frieze in the Villa of the Mysteries is one of the best preservations of Roman artwork anywhere in the world

Bluffer's Guide OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 3-23 JULY 1908

The Young Turk Revolution

Did you know?

The '31 March Incident' coup, actually occurred on 13 April. In 1909, the Ottoman Empire was using the older Rumi calendar system.

Timeline

1889



Ottoman students conspire against the sultan, but are discovered and flee to Paris. Two years later, they form the Committee of Union and Progress.

1906



Young educated Turkish officers of the Third Army Corps garrisoned in Salonika, Macedonia, form another revolutionary group called the Ottoman Liberty Society.

1907



Both groups join in a shaky alliance with the League of Private Initiative and Decentralisation, led by the aristocracy under Prince Sabahaddin.

FEBRUARY 1908



Austria announces a railway link through Novi Pazar. This would bring the western Balkans under Austrian influence, threatening the Ottoman Empire.



What was it?

The Young Turks weren't one political party. As their rather vague name suggests, it was a loose alliance of several different organisations that arose around the turn of the 20th century. The Ottoman sultan, Abdul Hamid II, had started out as a moderniser, and introduced the first democratic constitution in the Islamic world. However, within two years, he had returned his empire to absolute dictatorship. The bureaucratic and educated classes were concerned that economic and political manoeuvring from the British, Russian and French could break up the Ottoman Empire, and only a strong constitution could save it. In 1891, a group of radical student exiles formed the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) in Paris. They studied previous successful revolutions and allied with other disaffected Ottoman groups.

The Ottoman army in particular was being kept deliberately underfunded by Abdul Hamid, who preferred controlling the country with his network of spies. In July 1908, Major Ahmed Niyazi, fearing the sultan would discover his political views, launched a pre-emptive revolt. Within three weeks, the constitution was restored.



What were the consequences?

Once they had gained power, the Young Turks had no clear plan for running the country. In 1909, there was a counter-coup (known as the '31 March Incident') by the rank and file soldiers, over pay and the increasing secularisation of the country. This was eventually suppressed, but foreign European powers recognised the weakness of the new state and used these upheavals as pretext for military incursions. In quick succession, Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria declared independence, and Italy occupied Tripoli in Libya. Then in 1912-13, the two Balkan Wars resulted in the loss of almost all of the rest of the empire. When Britain and France refused to come to its defence, the Ottomans sided with Germany during World War I, which resulted in the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire at the Treaty of Sèvres. The Young Turks had overthrown their dictator to preserve their empire but instead had brought about its dissolution.



Who was involved?

Abdul Hamid II

1842-1918

The 34th Ottoman sultan introduced the empire's first democratic constitution in 1876, but two years later reinstated his dictatorship.



Ahmed Niyazi Bey

1873-1913

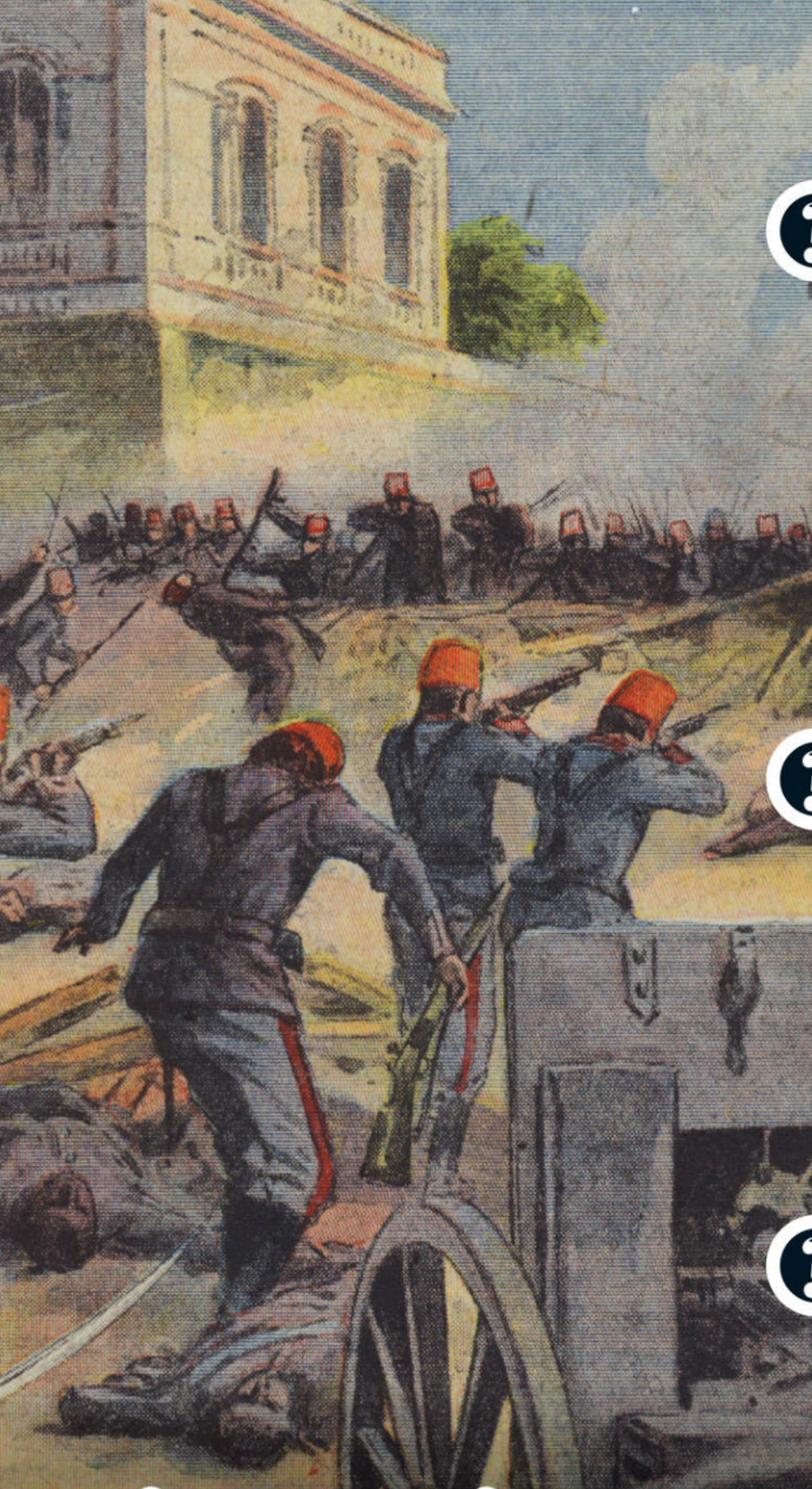
A senior captain in the Third Ottoman Army, he mutinied with 200 officers and civilians, sparking off the Young Turk revolution.



Ahmed Riza Bey

1859-1930

A prominent member of the Young Turk movement, he became president of the Chamber of Deputies after the revolution.



3 JULY 1908

23 JULY 1908



Major Ahmed Niyazi of the Third Army Corps leads a revolt against the provincial authorities in Resen, Macedonia. The uprising spreads rapidly around the empire.



In the face of overwhelming popular support for the revolution among the army and populace, Abdul Hamid agrees to recall parliament and restore the constitution.

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How to make... CHUCKWAGON BUFFALO STEW

COWBOY CUISINE AMERICA'S GREAT PLAINS, 1866-86

Ingredients

- 400 grams pinto beans
- Dash of olive oil
- 900 grams buffalo meat or beef
- 2 sticks celery
- 2 carrots
- 1 large white onion
- 2 tablespoon paprika
- ¼ tablespoon cayenne pepper
- 1 can chopped tomatoes
- Water
- Beef stock
- Salt and pepper
- A few rashers of bacon (optional)

Did you know?

Cowboys originated in Mexico after the Spanish settled. They were called 'vaqueros', from the Spanish word 'vaca' meaning 'cow'

After the American Civil War ended in 1865, the price of beef began to rise, and to meet demand, huge herds of cattle were driven through the Great Plains to the northern states. The life of a cowboy was tough at the mercy of the elements. These men were highly skilled in riding, shooting, lassoing and wrangling, and needed to eat hearty meals. Dried meat and beans made up the cowboy diet, along with some tinned vegetables and freshly caught game. The chuck wagon would move from camp to camp to feed the hungry herdsmen, cooking up meaty stews and buttermilk biscuits in Dutch ovens - heavy cast-iron pots with legs and lids that could be placed in or over a campfire.

METHOD

- 01** Rinse your pinto beans, put in a bowl and cover generously with water. Leave to soak overnight. To skip this step, simply use canned pinto beans.
- 02** This dish is best cooked in a Dutch oven. If you're under the stars, build a campfire, and get it hot.
- 03** For those with only a kitchen and not much else, set your oven to 180 degrees Celsius and use a large oven-safe casserole dish.
- 04** Cut the meat into large cubes, dice the celery and carrots and roughly chop the onion.
- 05** With your Dutch oven over the fire or your casserole dish on the hob (medium-high), heat a dash of oil and add the meat to sear it. Then add in the vegetables to cook for a few minutes.
- 06** Add the spices into the mix, along with the chopped tomatoes and cook, stirring, for a few minutes. Then use a 50/50 mixture of stock and water, pour over the contents of the pot until just covered and bring to a simmer for a few minutes.
- 07** Dutch-oven chefs can now leave this bubbling away on the campfire for around 1.5 hours, stirring occasionally until the liquid has reduced a little and the meat is tender. Kitchen cooks should pop the lid onto the casserole dish and transfer to the oven for 1.5 hours.
- 08** For a tasty addition, before serving chop up some bacon and fry until crispy, then stir through the stew.
- 09** Serve up with some steaming cowboy coffee and crusty bread (or buttermilk biscuits for an authentic Wild West menu) and enjoy.

REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and
films causing a stir in the history world

AT WAR ON THE GOTHIC LINE: FIGHTING IN ITALY 1944-45

The criminally overlooked campaign gets a thrilling retelling

Author Christian Jennings **Publisher** Osprey **Price** £20 **Released** Out now

In 1943, having defeated the Axis Powers in North Africa, the Allies launched an invasion of Europe from the south that would see them push up into the heart of the Nazi Empire. At least that was Churchill's plan. The British prime minister had long been obsessed with what he called Europe's "soft underbelly", and was convinced that a pan-European conflict could be won by invading the continent from its sunny Mediterranean south, where the people were somehow less resolved. Indeed he had pushed for this idea before. In 1915, during World War I and while first lord of the Admiralty, he green-lit the Allies sea-borne assault on Turkey at Gallipoli. It resulted in 141,000 Allied casualties and achieved absolutely nothing. His endorsement of the Allied invasion of Italy in 1943 was to prove an even more protracted and no-less-hazardous affair.

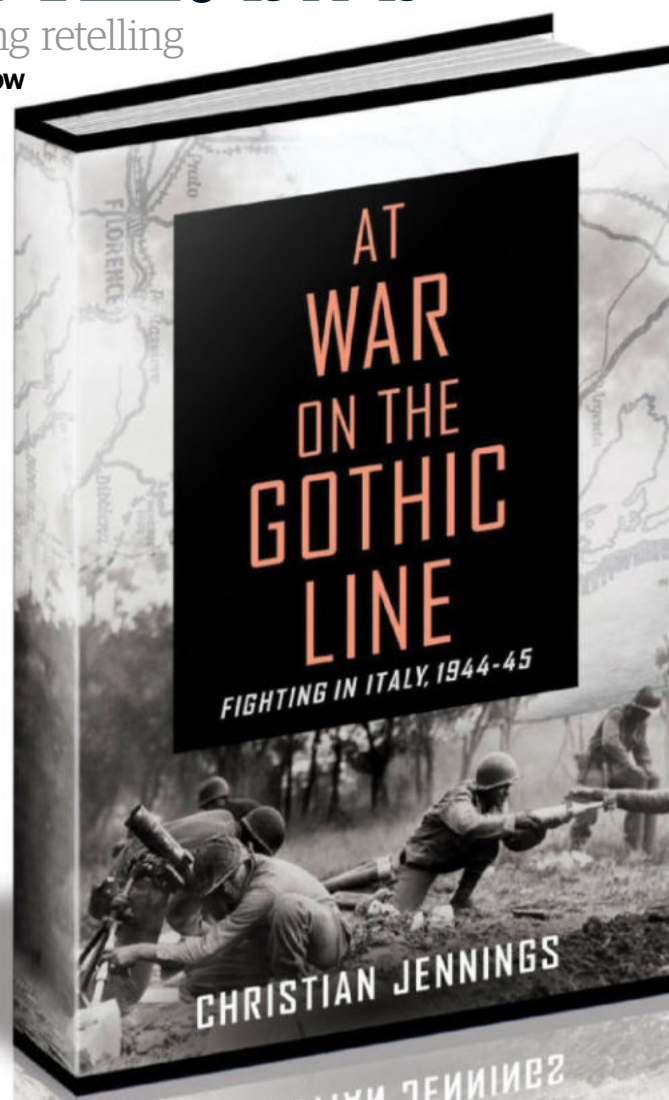
The Italian peninsula is slender and mountainous. Tactically this makes it difficult for any invader to conquer, as the defender is able to dominate the high ground and hard to outflank. Italy's unique geography was one of the reasons the Roman Empire dominated for almost 1,500 years. So when Allied troops jumped from landing crafts on to Italy's southern shores in September 1943, they entered into a grinding war of attrition that would see them trapped on the peninsula until the end of the conflict. Sure, Rome fell on 5 June 1944 - by which time Italy's Fascist dictatorship had collapsed - but the fighting was far from over. Mussolini's

diehard supporters joined forces with elite German troops, including SS divisions and paratroopers, to halt the Allied advance, and for the next ten months held a force of 15 different nations in check on what became known as the Gothic Line.

It is this hugely neglected aspect of World War II that comes under examination in Christian Jennings' highly readable book *At War On The Gothic Line*. The author weaves together events using first-hand accounts of 13 men and women who fought on both sides, including Germans, Italians, Britons, Americans, Indians, Canadians and Poles.

While Jennings doesn't quite nail the epic sweep this narrative demands, he has found some fascinating characters to grace his grand stage. These include a young Japanese-American officer from Pearl Harbor who loses an arm attacking a machine-gun nest (and whom - due to discrimination - is only decorated for doing so 56 years later), an African-American clerk in a segregated division who finds himself taking on the 'supermen' of Hitler's SS, an Indian officer from Mumbai who leads a mission to save Renaissance artworks, and a female teenage Italian partisan who helps to blow up a crucial railway bridge.

Dismissed as D-Day dodgers by some, the men and women who struggled to overcome fascism in southern Europe in the last years of the war fought as hard as anyone. This engrossing book does a fine job of painting them back into history.



"Jennings has found some fascinating characters to grace his grand stage"

DENIAL

History is on trial in this riveting courtroom drama

Certificate 12A Director Mick Jackson **Cast** Rachel Weisz, Timothy Spall, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Gatiss **Released** Out now

“Not all opinions are equal,” declares American academic and historian Deborah Lipstadt (Rachel Weisz), talking to the gathered British press after her victorious day in court. It’s a line that warrants repeating and clinging to in today’s ‘post-truth’ world, where poorly argued internet memes appear to carry as much veracity as expertise and genuine facts. It’s also meant as a stinging rebuke to the likes of David Irving, a historical writer who spent much of the 1980s and 1990s criticising reports of the Holocaust and denying that Adolf Hitler had any knowledge of it. In Irving’s view, based on falsified information, poor studies and deliberate misinterpretation of documents, it was Heydrich and Himmler’s doing, not his beloved Adolf’s.

Benefiting from an excellent script by playwright and screenwriter David Hare,

Denial (2016) is brilliantly acted by Rachel Weisz, Tom Wilkinson and Timothy Spall. The latter’s portrayal of Irving opts not for a pantomime-style, reptilian, fascist apologist, but for a more nuanced character study. Irving is insecure about his lack of academic credentials yet is a supremely smug man, painting himself as a maverick spirit in a den of crushing bores. But his intentions and egomaniacal desire to revise history were really spurred by his own racist beliefs and far-right identity.

Much of the film takes place in the confines of the courtroom (where Irving pompously represents himself as he sues Lipstadt for libel). This is where Hare’s screenplay really comes in to its own, getting across arguments, counter-arguments and vital points, breaking them down for the lay audience with skill and emotional resonance.



HACKSAW RIDGE

A remarkable story about a remarkable hero

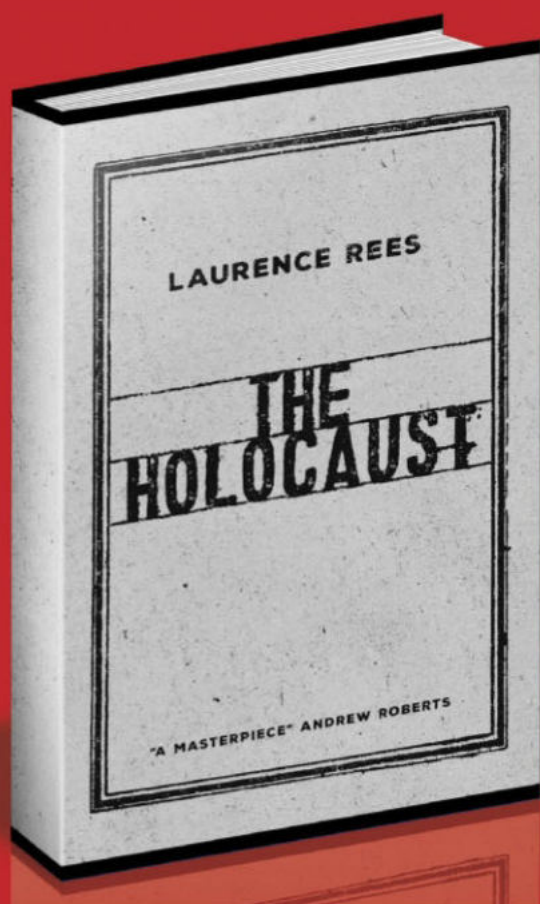
Certificate 15 Director Mel Gibson **Cast** Andrew Garfield, Vince Vaughn, Teresa Palmer, Hugo Weaving **Released** Out now

Featuring the most intense and violent battle scenes since Steven Spielberg’s *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), Mel Gibson’s extraordinary World War II saga is focused on a real-life figure: a conscientious objector who earned the prestigious Medal of Honor without once firing a gun. Private Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield) didn’t even touch the carbine rifle issued to him, nor throw a single grenade or so much as give the enemy a dirty look. A devout Seventh-day Adventist, his strict adherence to the sixth commandment (“Thou shalt not kill”) clashed not only with the actualities of fighting, but was looked upon as suspicious by fellow grunts and incredulous officers in charge of the yokel from Virginia.

Garfield is superb as Doss. His sweet disposition, sunny smile and resolute

moral code acting like a halo of grace amid the hellish conditions of Hacksaw Ridge on Okinawa, an escarpment that must be taken from the Japanese. Doss’s pre-war days and selfless acts as a medic are condensed for the sake of the movie’s own narrative fluidity (he saved the lives of 75 men at different locations), but the gist of the man’s endeavours remain true to life.

Thematically, Gibson gets plenty of mileage from the contrast between his saintly man and the vivid horrors on show. Mangled corpses blown to pieces, bodies burnt to a cinder – all riddled with maggots – rats feast on the dead at night, the earth literally saturated with blood and guts. How could anybody remain so cool and calm under heavy fire, amid such insanity? *Hacksaw Ridge* is a riveting depiction of thunderous combat and spiritual verve.



THE HOLOCAUST

Systematic, sober and absolutely essential

Author Laurence Rees Publisher Viking Price £25 Released Out now

Released in time for - and with the full support of - Holocaust Memorial Day, this comprehensive new study from author and broadcaster Laurence Rees (producer of the BBC's *The Nazis: A Warning From History* and *Auschwitz: The Nazis And 'The Final Solution'*) is doubly urgent in the current climate. Rees' methodical explanation for how - and why - the genocide happened moves briskly through events to give as full a view as possible of the various forces and scattered actors who set in motion acts of terror and mass slaughter that would grow to grisly crescendo.

Rees demonstrates that while no means an inevitable act - it was a product of human agency, after all - genocide was an obvious consequence of Hitler's ascension. His world view was clear from the very start that Germany had to rid itself of its

Jewish population, and that any conflict would result in their "annihilation".

Vital lessons come from the sidelines. From the inactivity of the British government in the face of a growing refugee crisis in 1938 and 1939 to the collaboration of Dutch civil servants and the Vichy French, whose anti-Semitism wasn't enforced, *The Holocaust* punctures any sense of Nazi exceptionalism. Rees is far too an impartial old BBC hand to allude to modern connections, but his accounts of politicians attempting to argue with Hitler in the 1930s can't help but feel familiar in an age of newly bullish right-wing populism: "He would pile false charge after false charge in such quick succession that they could not be answered... He did not want to come to a mutually agreeable compromise and it did not matter to him that his 'facts' were wrong."

HISTORY WAR RECOMMENDS...

Power and Glory: France's Secret Wars With Britain And America, 1945-2016

Author: RT Howard Price: £20
Publisher: Biteback Publishing



If you've ever thought the French are a bit prickly with the British, and wondered why, then this is the book for you. It lays out the origins of France's deep mistrust with the 'Anglo-Saxon' world, including Australia, Canada and, most importantly, the USA and Britain. Howard explains how the centuries of sparring with 'perfidious Albion', not to mention the sting of usually ending up on the losing side, has created a deep and pervasive mistrust on the other side of the Channel.

BITTER HARVEST

This saga about the Ukrainian famine is starved of quality

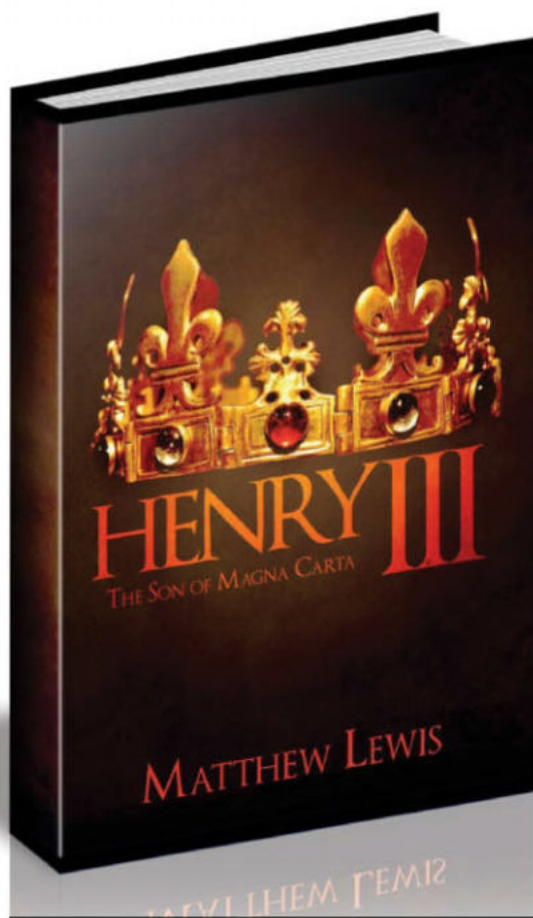
Certificate TBC Director George Mendeluk Cast Max Irons, Samantha Barks, Tamer Hassan, Terence Stamp Released February 2017

Purporting to tell the true story of the 'Holodomor' - the famine that Stalin enforced through collectivisation upon Ukraine in the 1930s - *Bitter Harvest* is instead a dreadful, if well-intentioned, melodrama primed with tin-eared dialogue, rushed plotting and some seriously ropery acting. Poor Terence Stamp looks mighty embarrassed during his

scenes, but gets on with the show like the troupier he is. Sadly, it only gets worse. Tamer Hassan, mostly known for playing mockney gangsters in countless low-rent Brit gangster flicks, appears as a one-dimensional Soviet commander. In one scene, he attempts to rape Samantha Barks' heroine, Natalka, while tripping on poisonous mushrooms he's been served. He stops when the victim morphs into his mother. In the history of weird and unintentionally hilarious scenes in the movies, this is a new entry for consideration.

Put simply, director George Mendeluk is spectacularly out of his depth here. This is a passion project for the German-Canadian of Ukrainian heritage, and the famine is a story well worth telling. But Mendeluk is not the man for the job. The filmmaker has spent much of his career working in television, and it shows. Scenes are terribly over-lit, the photogenic depictions of peasant folk with nary a fleck of dirt on them are utterly bogus and its visions of bucolic existence - all ripe fields bathed in golden light - before the famine comes are excessively sentimental. *Bitter Harvest* is the first film in the English language to tackle the Holodomor, but that's about as noteworthy as it gets.





HENRY III: THE SON OF MAGNA CARTA

A comprehensive portrait of an overshadowed king

Author Matthew Lewis **Publisher** Amberley Publishing

Price £20 **Released** Out now

“Woe to you, O land, when your child is a king.” Murdered, deposed or eventual failures, those who have come to the crown of England as children have frequently demonstrated the truth of this line from Ecclesiastes. Henry III is a stunning exception that does not often receive much notice for his success.

In this biography, Matthew Lewis explores the great detriments that faced nine-year-old King Henry and how he not only held on to his kingdom but also succeeded where his infamous father had failed. One of the tools that made his success possible was *Magna Carta*. Had King John lived longer, Lewis asserts, this famous document might have been lost to history, as the one who signed it had no intention of adhering to it.

Due credit is given to history's greatest knight, William Marshal, for initiating Henry's success

in using *Magna Carta* as a guideline. Elderly and having outlived each of the early Plantagenet royals that he had served, Marshal offers his sunset years to placing young Henry upon a path that defines the remainder of his reign. He is kept in the care of pious, rather than self-serving, men, a quality that no one modelled better than Marshal himself.

Lewis digs into the early influences upon King Henry and how they shaped his rule and personality, while also exploring his failures. Misjudging situations, both political and military, Henry caused a good portion of the unrest that he was forced to deal with. He was born to be king but lacked the talents and character traits that could have made him a better one. Written in an accessible narrative format reminiscent of Dan Jones, this biography brings to life the complex history of a forgotten Medieval king.

EDWARD IV & ELIZABETH WOODVILLE: A TRUE ROMANCE

When a ladies' man monarch met a widowed commoner, sparks flew

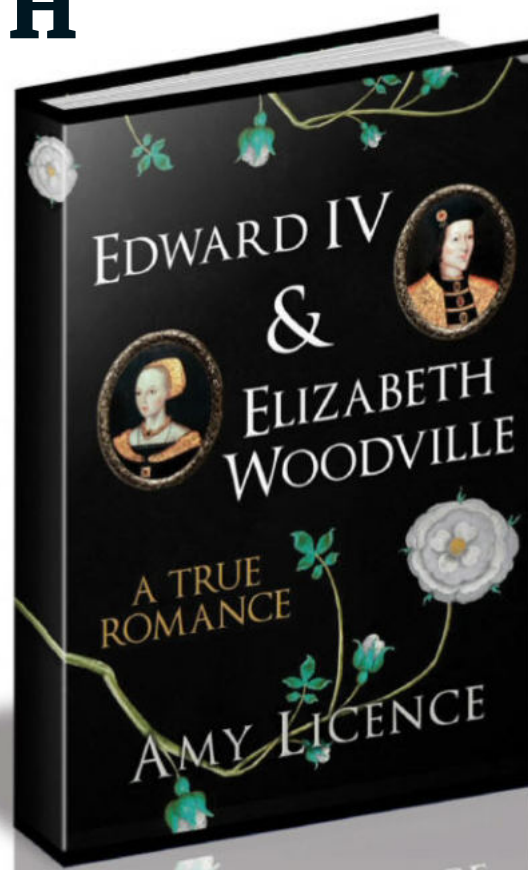
Author Amy Licence **Publisher** Amberley Publishing **Price** £20 **Released** Out now

Once upon a time there was a teenage king. Popular with the ladies, ambitious and with the world at his feet, Edward IV could have anything and anyone he wanted. When the widowed Elizabeth Woodville petitioned him to restore her son's lost inheritance, Edward fell head over heels in love. Yet Elizabeth wasn't about to surrender her reputation and good name for a fling, so the besotted king made her his wife. It was to prove a fateful decision.

Better known as the White Queen, the penniless Elizabeth Woodville's life was tumultuous, and this book tells her remarkable story. Widowed while in her mid-20s, her second marriage to Edward IV caused considerable controversy. Intended for a prestigious marriage, Edward's decision to make a commoner his queen

sent shockwaves through a country in turmoil. Dashing through one of the most unsettled times in English history, from the mystery of the Princes in the Tower to the Wars of the Roses, *Edward IV & Elizabeth Woodville: A True Romance*, is much more than a love story. It is a sweeping examination of the shaping of a nation, with the complex scope of its subject matter ably handled by Licence. The research is evident on every page, and this often tangled web of family, marriage and genealogy is unpicked admirably.

Part Cinderella story, part political intrigue and part historical legend, Licence brings a fresh perspective to a story that has been told many times before. In her hands the characters live and breathe, and she has done a wonderful job of capturing the legendary character of the famed White Queen.



HISTORY ANSWERS

Send your questions to questions@historyanswers.co.uk



Unlike the other Ancient Wonders of the World, we do not know the precise location of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Where were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?

Erin Weber

The ancient city of Babylon was in present-day Iraq, about 85 kilometres south of Baghdad. The Hanging Gardens were supposedly a series of terraces constructed of mud bricks that formed a semi-circular amphitheatre. It was about 25 metres high and 120 metres across. Each terrace was planted with trees and flowers so that they cascaded over the sides. The garden would have needed 35,000 litres of water per day, which was delivered via a canal and aqueduct.

The only problem is that no archaeological evidence for the Hanging Gardens has been found in the ruins of Babylon and no documents from the period even

mention the gardens. The Roman historian Josephus describes it, but he never visited it and instead cites the work of the Babylonian priest Berossus from 350 years earlier. In 2013, a historian from the University of Oxford, Dr Stephanie Dalley, claimed that the Hanging Gardens may actually have been in Assyria, 550 kilometres to the north of Babylon. The Assyrians sacked Babylon in 689 BCE and may have subsequently referred to their capital, Nineveh, as 'the new Babylon'. A bas-relief carving from King Sennacherib's palace in Nineveh shows trees growing on roofs supported by columns. The conflict in Iraq has so far prevented archaeologists from confirming this theory, though.

What happened to the Aztecs?

William Johnston

The Aztec Empire lasted from the 13th to the 16th century and its capital, Tenochtitlan, was the largest city in Pre-Columbian America. However, in 1521, the city was besieged by the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés. The Aztecs vastly outnumbered the Spanish, but they didn't have cannons or cavalry. Aztec civilisation was also heavily focused on ritual human sacrifices – several thousand each year. Although many of the victims were willing Aztec volunteers, others were prisoners from neighbouring city-states.

Human sacrifice both depleted the Aztec population and created huge resentment from other kingdoms. This allowed Cortés to ally with the neighbouring kingdom of Tlaxcala and recruit thousands of warriors for his assault on Tenochtitlan. The final straw for the Aztecs was an outbreak of smallpox, which killed as many as 25 per cent of the natives, including their emperor, Cuicatláhuac. On 13 August 1521, Tenochtitlan surrendered to Cortés and the Aztec Empire was defeated.



The Siege of Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire, was besieged by the Spanish in 1521

This day in history 2 February

506

Breviary Of Alaric

Alaric II, king of the Visigoths publishes a collection of books of Roman Law. It applies to the common people and Catholic priests living in Spain and south-west France, but not the Visigothic nobles.

1461

Battle of Mortimer's Cross

During the Wars of the Roses, Edward of York sees three Suns rising in the sky at dawn (probably a meteorological illusion called a parheliion) and convinces his troops that the Holy Trinity is with them.



1653

New Amsterdam incorporated

The Dutch town on the southern tip of Manhattan Island receives municipal rights and therefore officially becomes a city. It will later absorb the city of New Haarlem and become New York.

1709

Selkirk rescued

Scottish privateer Alexander Selkirk is rescued after four years and four months stranded on the tropical island of Juan Fernández. His story inspires Daniel Defoe to write *Robinson Crusoe*.





Stories of the Romans ploughing salt into the ground after the sack of Carthage in the Second Punic War were almost certainly invented in the 19th century

Why did conquering generals in ancient times “salt the earth”?

Gloria Nelson

The Old Testament and several Hittite and Assyrian texts mention that when a city was destroyed after a battle or siege, the land was ploughed and strewn with salt by the victorious force. This wasn't to prevent crops from ever growing there again, though. Salt was a valuable commodity in ancient

civilisations and you would need about 30 tons per acre to render the land uncultivable. In much lower concentrations, however, salt was sometimes used as a fertiliser, and many ancient texts refer to seeds of various plants being sown into ground with the salt. It seems that this was part of a ritual to return the city to nature – eliminating any sign it had existed.

There was a Saint Valentine who was bishop of Interamna in Italy, but historians aren't sure if he is the same Saint Valentine we celebrate on 14 February



How did Saint Valentine become the patron saint of lovers?

Harry Anderson

Saint Valentine was a Roman priest martyred on 14 February, circa 269, by emperor Claudius II, but we know almost nothing else about him. Chaucer mentions Valentine as the patron saint of mating birds and human lovers in a 14th-century poem, but a story that he was executed for secretly performing illegal Christian marriages was probably invented in the 18th century.



Discover how a 19th-century fetish for pharaohs turned seriously spooky at historyanswers.co.uk

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The Order of Assassins article in @AboutHistoryMag is fantastic! @Tom_Wrigley

Great piece to read and nice to know where a lot of Christmas traditions come from. @MarylinWillia14

1886

First Groundhog Day

In Pennsylvania, locals gather to see if Punxsutawney Phil can see his shadow. This tradition dates back to 18th-century Germany and originally used a badger, rather than a groundhog, to predict spring.



1901

Queen Victoria's funeral

Following instructions written by Victoria four years earlier, she receives a military funeral, wearing her wedding veil. In her left hand she clasps a lock of hair from John Brown, her putative lover.



1922

Ulysses published

The 265,000-word novel by James Joyce is published. The first edition contains more than 2,000 errors but the book is later hailed as one of the most important of the 20th century.

1935

Lie detector tested

Leonard Keeler, working at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in Northwestern University, tests his prototype polygraph machine on two men accused of assault. The results help secure their conviction.



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Future Publishing Ltd

Richmond House, 33 Richmond Hill
Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6EZ
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586200
Web: www.futureplc.com
www.greatdigitalmags.com
www.historyanswers.co.uk

Editorial

Editor **Jodie Tyley**
jodie.tyley@futurenet.com
☎ 01202 586274

Senior Art Editor **Andy Downes**
Production Editor **Callie Green**
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Photographer **James Sheppard**

Contributors

Ella Carter, Martyn Conterio, Catherine Curzon, Philippa Grafton, Michael Haskew, Jonathan Hatfull, Marc DeSantis, Nick Soldingier, Jo Stass, Nicola Tallis, Emily Turner Graham, Luis Villazon, Gavin Watson, William Welsh, Willow Winsham, Samantha Wilcoxson, Frances White, Luis Villazon

Cover images

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Advertising

Digital or printed media packs are available on request.

Head of Sales **Hang Deretz**
☎ 01202 586442
hang.deretz@futurenet.com
Ad Manager **Gary Simpkins**
gary.simpkins@futurenet.com

International

All About History is available for licensing. Contact the International department to discuss partnership opportunities.
Head of International Licensing **Cathy Blackman**
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586401
cathy.blackman@futurenet.com

Subscriptions

For all subscription enquiries:
allabouthistory@servicehelpline.co.uk
☎ 0844 848 8408
☎ Overseas +44 (0) 1795 592 867
www.imagineusubs.co.uk
Head of subscriptions **Sharon Todd**

Circulation

Circulation Director **Darren Pearce**
☎ 01202 586200

Production

Production Director **Jane Hawkins**
☎ 01202 586200

Management

Finance & Operations Director **Marco Peroni**
Creative Director **Aaron Asadi**
Editorial Director **Ross Andrews**

Printing & Distribution

Wyndeham Peterborough, Storey's Bar Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 5YS

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Chief financial officer Penny Ladkin-Brand

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PLUS: A history of making movies, Elizabeth I's magician: John Dee, Battle of Lepanto, Constantinople, New Zealand Wars, The would-be kings & queens

HISTORY HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



FURY

Director: David Ayer **Starring:** Brad Pitt, Logan Lerman, Shia LaBeouf, Michael Peña, Jon Bernthal **Country:** USA, UK **Released:** 2014

Does this tense and grisly action flick reflect the horrors of war?

VERDICT *Fury* accurately portrays the tragedy of war while still managing to romanticise it.

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 During the battle with the Tiger tank, the Sherman's armour-piercing round could have penetrated the front armour of the Tiger quite easily at short range. 'Fury' was an 'Easy Eight' Sherman, and its 76mm high-velocity gun would have been a match for most German armour.

02 The film lacks any sort of credible infantry tactics on both the US and German sides. The lack of combined arms (artillery and air support, for instance) on the US side and the SS battalion's inability to destroy the immobilised tank are two standout examples.

03 Pitt's character being able to make such regular use of a German StG 44 is highly unlikely. They weren't common and ammo and spare parts would have had to be scrounged from the battlefield. For obvious reasons tankers preferred more compact arms.

04 The myth of the Germans possessing tanks that were vastly superior to anything the Allies could field is a common misconception, and one that is perpetuated by this film. The M4 'Sherman' medium tank was one of the Allies' most effective vehicles.

WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

Fury captures the emotional and physical toll experienced by soldiers in war, and the characters exhibit extreme mood swings and PTSD from the horrors they have witnessed. Some veterans have remarked how well the film portrays this.



WITH THEIR BARE HANDS

A ground-breaking narrative history, which examines the never-before-told story of one of the most devastating battles of American involvement in World War I – the battle of Montfaucon.

“Fax tells the amazing story of how the American Expeditionary Force and the 79th Division overcame many errors and false ideas and paid a high price learning how to fight effectively.”

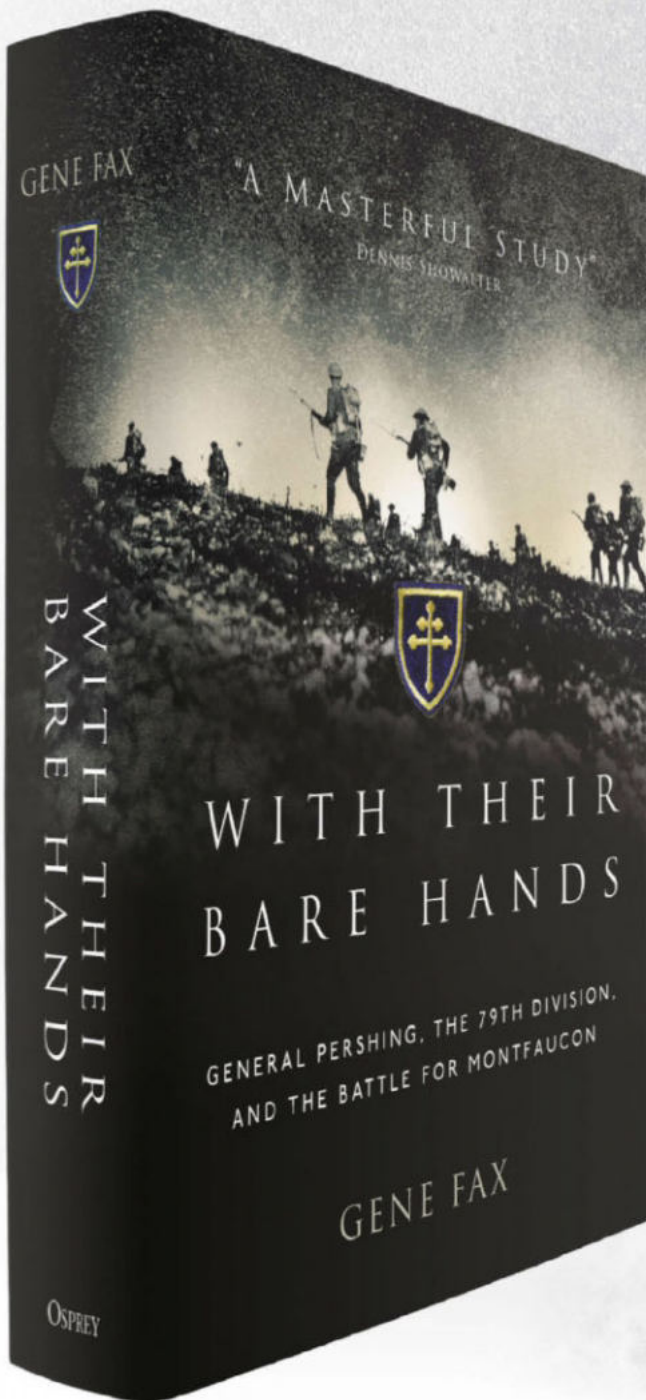
Brigadier General (ret.) Robert A. Doughty

“With Their Bare Hands is a fine testament to their courage under fire and a compelling work of history by Gene Fax”

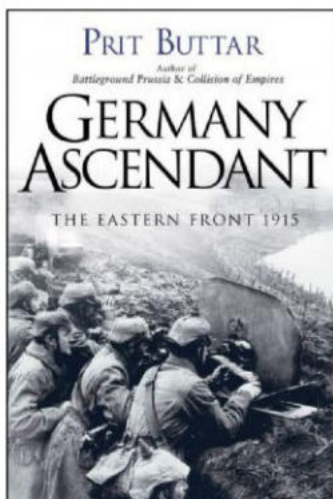
Mitchell Yockelson, author and military historian

“Gene Fax’s new history of the 79th Division is a masterful study of the long and difficult road to victory.”

Dennis Showalter, author of Instrument of War



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